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Phnom Penh Regional Platform on Sustainable Development for Asia and the Pacific

adopted at the High-level Regional Meeting for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Phnom Penh, 27-29 November 2001

1. We, the Ministers and heads of delegations of member States of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, met at Phnom Penh on 28 and 29 November 2001 at the High-level Regional Meeting for the World Summit on Sustainable Development to review the progress in the implementation of Agenda 21 in the region and identify key policy issues, priorities, goals, constraints and actions in preparation for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, to be held at Johannesburg, South Africa, in September 2002.

2. We renew our commitment to the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and the provisions of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 adopted by the General Assembly at its nineteenth special session in June 1997 and in this regard, we reiterate our commitments in the Malmö Ministerial Declaration, the Barbados Declaration on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2000, as they relate to the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

3. We affirm the critical role of Asia and the Pacific in promoting global sustainable development. It is the largest and fastest-growing region in the world, with over half of the world's population and the largest population of the world's poor, the world's largest exclusive economic zones and migratory fish stocks and the most diverse ecology.

I. Regional assessment of the implementation of Agenda 21

4. We note that, since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992, the region has made significant gains in many areas of sustainable development, including the provision of the basic physical and social infrastructure for promoting economic activity and alleviating poverty, the development of environmental policies, institutions and legislation and the conservation and management of natural resources and ecosystems, but the region's environment continues to deteriorate and the number of poor people continues to increase, outpacing the best efforts of many countries in the region.

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5. We further note that a combination of factors have made it difficult for countries in the region to achieve sustainable development. The widespread poverty prevailing in the region and inadequate financial resources have been among the most serious constraints to effective implementation. The financial crisis in 1997, the isolation and vulnerability of small island developing States that are members of the Pacific Islands Forum and recurrent natural disasters have made the situation even more difficult. Inadequate institutional and technical capacity and unavailability of environmentally sound technologies have also been significant constraints to regional progress towards sustainable development. In addition, the lack of peace, stability and security in some parts of the region seriously impedes the implementation of sustainable development strategies at national and regional levels. We recognize that peace, security and stability are prerequisites for sustainable development in all countries and regions of the world.

II. Key issues and priorities for sustainable development

6. We recognize that the key issues and priorities for sustainable development in the region are multisectoral and cross-cutting, embracing the environmental, economic and social spheres. We further recognize that to address these multifarious issues and priorities will require promoting economic growth and social development, making globalization a positive force for all the world's people, with special emphasis on poverty eradication, environmental protection and management, good governance as described in paragraph 13 of the Millennium Declaration, public participation and human development.

A. Economic and social issues

7. We believe that adequately addressing the following economic and social issues is essential to sustainable development in the region: chronic and persistent poverty, the impact of globalization, sustainable energy development, sustainable agriculture for food security, human settlements development, unsustainable consumption and production patterns, human development and coping with natural disasters.

1. Chronic and persistent poverty

8. We reject poverty as an acceptable human condition. We note that Asia and the Pacific is the largest developing region in the world in terms of land mass and population, but it is the poorest of all regions, with about two thirds of the world's poor, or almost one billion people. The nexus between poverty, environment and development is apparent in the region. We affirm our conviction that poverty reduction and sustainable economic growth are essential elements of sustainable development and that success in this area will require the combined efforts of Governments and civil society and strong and sustained support from the international community.

2. Impact of globalization

9. We recognize that globalization has both positive and negative impacts on the sustainability of development. Globalization has brought about positive changes in increasing the volume of trade, foreign investment and local employment and integrating the economy and the environment by employing market-based instruments. However, economic globalization has also brought negative impacts that are evident in the trade-related loss of natural resources, and abrupt investment shifts that have negative consequences. To make globalization work for sustainable development, we emphasize the urgency of fully integrating developing countries and economies in transition into the world economic and trade system, taking into account national requirements and the need for a level playing field between developed and developing countries, promoting capacity-building and providing technical assistance to developing countries and economies in transition, enhancing the role of information and communications technology as a factor for development, and promoting trade and investment to attain a fair and broad-based distribution of the benefits of globalization. We recognize that the least developed countries are among the most vulnerable to the negative impacts of globalization. We believe that the least developed countries require increased technical assistance and less restrictions for access to their products in the global markets and for progressive integration in global trade.

3. Sustainable energy development

10. We recognize that energy is vital to economic development and that the rapid growth in the demand for energy in the region has given rise to critical issues that include indoor and urban air pollution caused by fossil-fuel burning and urban transport; the availability and accessibility of energy to the poor; the development of cost-effective and socially acceptable sources of renewable energy; and increasing energy efficiency by demand-side management and the prevention of system loss. To achieve sustainable energy development, measures need to be taken to increase the cost-effectiveness and efficiency of energy production and consumption, develop and use affordable clean energy technologies, increase the use of renewable energy, and implement policies to reduce the material and energy intensity of production and consumption.

4. Sustainable agriculture for food security

11. Since agricultural production depends on natural resources such as land, water, and biological resources, agricultural activities affect the environment in both positive and negative ways. For example, some activities, such as overexploitation of land for agriculture, could damage the environment, while agricultural activities done in a sustainable manner could provide various goods and services such as food, wood and environmental services sustainably at a lower cost. In order to lessen the degradation of natural resources and to achieve food security, the pursuit of sustainable agriculture and rural development, while reducing trade distortion, is essential.

5. Human settlements development

12. We also recognize that the provision of livelihood and the basic infrastructure to sustain a good quality of life and maintain a healthy environment are the main challenges in the development and management of human settlements in the region. Underemployment and unemployment in rural areas are resulting in migration to cities, transplanting rural poverty to urban areas and increasing the pressure on already deficient urban infrastructure and services. The megacities are also beset with traffic congestion, problems of solid and hazardous waste management, air and water pollution and associated health hazards, and improper constructions. Measures to manage these issues should be strengthened. Since most urban and rural local governments in the region have insufficient resources and capacity to address effectively the range and magnitude of the problems facing them and to promote urban and rural linkages, it is urgent to enhance the institutional capacity of local authorities in terms of human, technical and financial resources. Measures to address these issues, including cooperation between local governments for disseminating know-how to overcome these problems, should also be strengthened. In this regard the Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment should be further promoted. Though on a different scale, the problems associated with urban settlements on small islands are no less acute.

6. Unsustainable consumption and production patterns

13. We believe that changing patterns of consumption beyond the reasonable limits set by nature and production characterized by gross inefficiencies and mismanagement in the use of water, energy and minerals are the most complex tasks in promoting sustainable development. We also believe that it is imperative that the consumption pattern of the world, in particular of developed countries, should be modified in order to attain sustainable development at the global level, including meeting the basic needs of the global population. All countries should promote the transition to less resource-intensive patterns of consumption. The countries in the region should also aim at achieving an energy-efficient and recycling-based society which would be realized by means of a set of appropriate policy measures, including the utilization of science and technology, market mechanisms and promotion of environmentally-friendly business practices.

7. Human development

14. We affirm that good quality human development remains the biggest social challenge for Asia and the Pacific. In most subregions there is rapid population growth and large differences in progress in terms of human development between ethnic groups and genders and between urban and rural areas. In general, women fare worse than men; minority ethnic groups fare worse than majority groups; and rural areas fare worse than urban areas. We therefore call for urgent measures to address illiteracy, malnutrition, poor health, human deprivation, inadequacy of rural infrastructure and facilities to enhance rural

employment opportunities, vulnerability to economic shocks and gender, cultural and social inequalities, especially for the poor, local and traditional people and marginalized groups. Infectious diseases are not only a public health issue that threatens people's lives in developing countries but also creates serious obstacles to the economic and social development of developing countries. Environmental education is particularly important; therefore such programmes in schools and enterprises should be improved. We realize the importance of dialogue as a key to understanding among various political, social, ethnic, religious and racial groups in the region and the world. In this context, we endorse the importance of dialogue among civilizations, as expressed in General Assembly resolution 53/22 of 4 November 1998 on the United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations and its critical role in promoting sustainable development.

8. Coping with natural disasters

15. We recognize that natural disasters, which take heavy tolls in terms of human lives, suffering, displacement of poor communities and economic losses, are major concerns for sustainable development. We call for appropriate measures to ensure that populations suffering the consequences of natural disasters, severe environmental degradation and other relevant humanitarian emergencies are given every assistance and protection so that they can resume normal life as soon as possible. We also call for measures to be part of sustainable development strategies of affected countries in the region, including the establishment of early warning systems, the use of modern technologies, including satellite technology, and the implementation of effective mechanisms for managing disaster situations including establishment of national comprehensive hazard and risk management plans, and mitigating their effects, including, as appropriate, regional cooperation on joint ocean and climate research and observation.

B. Environmental and natural resources issues

16. We further recognize that the regional priorities with regard to the critical environmental and natural resources issues are land and biodiversity, oceans and coastal resources, freshwater resources, energy and mineral resources, atmosphere and climate change and island vulnerability.

1. Land and biodiversity

17. We note that land degradation, including desertification, being closely related to poverty issues, is a severe constraint and continues to be a major issue in the region, particularly in fragile ecosystems, which include deserts, semi-arid lands, mountains, wetlands, atolls, coral reefs and coastal areas. The rich biodiversity of the region, which claims more than two thirds of the global biological resources, is under serious threat from habitat alteration, the introduction of exotic species, pollution, global warming and other human activities. We stress the need to implement fully the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa and the importance of the sustainable management, conservation and use of all types of forests, the recognition of ownership and protection of traditional practices and knowledge, in particular within the plan of action of the United Nations Forum on Forests. International efforts are needed in promoting sustainable management of all types of forests, in particular, mobilization of financial resources, transfer of technology and capacity-building. We reiterate the need to address in a holistic manner the issue and the underlying causes of illegal logging, the illegal trade in timber, non-timber forest products, and genetic resources. We support international and regional cooperation in space technology applications for better management of land use and biodiversity.

2. Oceans and coastal resources

18. We express our concern that the integrity of coasts and oceans is under threat from unsustainable development and overexploitation. The discharge of hazardous and toxic wastes, land-based sources of pollution, the destruction of corals and mangroves, offshore oil drilling and mineral exploration and exploitation, oil spills, marine accidents, excessive coastal tourism and overfishing have been identified as some of the main causes of marine environmental degradation. We call for a renewed commitment to the sustainable development of oceans and coastal resources through effective cooperation among national, subregional, regional and international

institutions responsible for marine and ocean protection and management; the implementation of national, subregional and regional policies for enhancing the sustainable management and use of oceans and their resources; the promotion of total ecosystem marine resources management through capacity-building; the improvement of access to survey and monitoring technologies; and full and integrated implementation of the Convention on the Law of the Sea, the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal and other conventions.

3. Freshwater resources

19. We recognize that the availability of freshwater is an increasingly important issue in the region, particularly in Central Asia and low-lying small island developing States, which has the highest level of water stress. Economic growth, urbanization, industrialization, population growth, overuse and system losses, and the limited availability of freshwater resources in some countries of the region have all contributed to water scarcity in the region. Arsenic contamination in water resources is also a severe problem, causing serious health hazards in some parts of the region. In the light of this, we stress the importance of integrated river and basin management to promote the sustainable use of freshwater resources. We reiterate the need to promote the sustainable use of freshwater by developing strategic approaches and technologies that integrate all aspects of water management to reduce water stress and to maintain, conserve and protect freshwater resources to meet development needs in a sustainable manner.

4. Energy and mineral resources

20. We recognize that energy and mineral resources are crucial to fuel sustainable development. Access to energy resources for the poor segment of our community is therefore instrumental in alleviating their poverty. Special consideration should be taken to ensure sustainable practices in extracting energy and mineral resources and to foster renewable energy development.

5. Atmospheric and climate change

21. We note with concern the deteriorating quality of urban air, transboundary air pollution caused by, among other things, forest fires and acid rain, and the sandstorm phenomenon, the so-called yellow dust caused by desertification, and the impacts of global warming and climate change on various key socio-economic sectors of the region. Climate change is expected to increase the frequency and intensity of extreme events, such as storms, floods, high temperature, drought and sea-level rise. We therefore remain deeply concerned that all countries, particularly developing countries, including the least developed countries and small island States, face increased risk of negative impacts of climate change. It is important that efforts related to climate change and sustainable energy development should focus on capacity-building, technology transfer and improved access to new technologies, with special emphasis on adaptation strategies. We call for increased international and domestic action in addressing adaptation to climate change, climate variability, sea-level rise and other climatic change impacts, development and promotion of adaptation strategies, mobilization of resources for adaptation and consideration of all the implications of all the adaptation needs, options and requirements. There is a need to assist developing countries, especially least developed countries and small island developing States and economies in transition, in capitalizing on funding opportunities. It is important to improve the accuracy of seasonal forecasting of monsoons and the understanding of the regional water cycle and promote regional cooperation in joint research on climate observation. Another concern is the effective implementation and enforcement of legislative and policy measures to address issues related to atmospheric and climate change.

22. We recognize that the World Summit on Sustainable Development provides an important opportunity for addressing the linkages between climate change and sustainable development and we note the decisions adopted by the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties, constituting the Marrakesh Accords, that pave the way for the timely entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol with the widest possible participation.

6. Island vulnerability

23. We acknowledge that the issue of vulnerability has received growing international recognition as a major disadvantage facing sustainable development, and in particular that of small island developing States. It arises from an interplay of such factors as

remoteness, geographical dispersion, vulnerability to natural disasters, climate change, ecological fragility, exposure to economic shocks, small internal markets and limited endowment of natural resources. We therefore call for urgent measures to address and reduce the vulnerability of islands in order to enhance sustainable development in our region.

C. Cross-cutting issues

24. We stress the need to address urgently the following cross-cutting issues in order to move the region towards sustainability: policy challenges for sustainable development; institutional reform and governance; capacity-building; enabling informed decision-making; technology transfer; promoting participation of and partnership with major groups; and ensuring gender equality and gender justice.

1. Policy challenges for sustainable development

25. We emphasize the need for support for ongoing sustainable development policies and strategies in a number of countries in the region as well as the early implementation in all countries of the region of a sustainable development policy and decision-making frameworks to integrate economic, social and environmental policies into one in order to promote environmentally sound, socially acceptable and economically feasible development. Such a policy should be based on a set of principles of economic sustainability, poverty alleviation and human development, environmental stewardship, including ecosystem-based approaches, respect for effective traditional resources management, and institutional safeguards, with a special focus on poverty reduction. It will also require, as appropriate, an integrated approach encompassing vertical and horizontal coordination, decentralization and appropriate devolution, participatory and collaborative governance, control of corruption, transparency and accountability and investment in education and technologies.

2. Institutional reform and governance

26. We believe that good governance, as described in paragraph 13 of the Millennium Declaration, and institutional reform are among the most important issues in meeting the challenges of sustainable development. At the national level, the institutional framework should ensure the integration of economic and social development and environmental protection and management to generate the needed financial resources. At the subregional and regional levels, the key issue is to strengthen the mechanisms for the coordination of related activities of key institutions and organizations, stakeholders, private sector, civil society organizations and major groups that are active in the broad field of sustainable development. At the global level the key institutional issue is to strengthen existing global institutional mechanisms that Governments need to coordinate and to support the implementation of regional platforms for the next decade to make them more responsive to the demands of sustainable development in all countries. It is also important to discuss ways of improving the institutional framework for sustainable development, including the future role of the Commission on Sustainable Development, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and United Nations regional commissions in the further implementation of Agenda 21. In order to create more effectiveness and to strengthen the implementation of multilateral agreements there is also a need to improve interlinkages and enhanced cooperation and synergies among such agreements at all levels. We note the ongoing UNEP process in this regard and expect that its outcome will lead to meeting this objective.

3. Capacity-building

27. We emphasize the importance of capacity-building across all sectors as a cornerstone in the achievement of sustainable development through better education and training and the creation of public awareness concerning sustainable development. Efforts in this area should include building the capacity both at the national and local levels, as well as for the self-empowerment of local communities and the training of more qualified trainers, as well as developing capacity particularly using subregional and regional approaches to understand and articulate the increasing number of national legal and institutional measures and international environmental conventions and agreements and to secure better compliance with and enforcement of these laws and conventions. Capacity-building in the use of modern technologies for environmental monitoring and assessment, including the use of space technologies, information and communication technologies as well as traditional skills and knowledge, should also be promoted.

4. Enabling informed decision-making

28. We acknowledge that sound decision-making and the formulation and effective implementation of development programmes, projects and activities depend on national coordination and the provision of scientific data, information, appropriately packaged experiences and knowledge. We recognize the need for regionally developed scientific infrastructure including, where appropriate and on a voluntary basis, satellite-based monitoring networks and assessment models. We also recognize the need to establish an accurate database and integrated information systems in the countries of the region to promote informed decision-making and to provide the public with access to such information. At the national, subregional and regional levels, the existing mechanisms and infrastructures for data and information flow need to be coordinated and strengthened by promoting the utilization of technologies including earth observation, geographical information systems and global mapping technologies, and cooperation in the transfer of best practices and technologies.

5. Technology transfer

29. We view with serious concern that the commitment to further promote the transfer of environmentally-sound technologies to developing countries on favourable terms as embodied in Agenda 21 has mostly been unfulfilled. We stress the crucial importance of transfer of technology to developing countries in the implementation of Agenda 21. We further stress the urgent need to facilitate the transfer of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries and economies in transition through improved mechanisms including the World Trade Organization (WTO) process, better access to information, and enhanced capacities of recipient countries to utilize such technologies. There is a need to promote the development of local technologies, improvement of capacity for technology assessment, particularly of new and imported technologies, private sector participation in research and development and bigger national allocations for science and technology. The technologies of particular relevance to the region are biotechnology, information and communications technology, environmentally sound technology and renewable energy and desalination technologies, and resource-efficient low-waste and no-waste technologies.

6. Promoting participation of and partnership with major groups

30. We acknowledge the vital role of major groups in sustainable development and call on all Governments in the region to recognize fully their crucial role and promote their active participation in sustainable development. Major groups, including community-based organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), industry, agriculture and business associations need to be encouraged and nurtured, particularly because they have the capability of delivering social services, often in partnership with Governments. One area where these efforts should be focused is the development of effective partnerships with business and industry and the science and technology community in finding solutions to various environmental, social and economic challenges. These groups should be major partners in extending environmental services to the poor to relieve the heavy pressure on local government resources. Special attention should be paid to the mobilization of youth and women as partners in ensuring sustainable economic and social development for them. Governments are also urged to undertake appropriate measures to promote partnership among Governments, business and major groups to support the achievement of sustainable development.

7. Ensuring gender equality and gender justice

31. We emphasize the importance of empowering women in social and economic development by reinforcing their capacity in the domains of education, employment, women's health services, including access to family planning and other basic services. We support the Beijing Platform for Action and chapter 24 of Agenda 21 as blueprints for achieving equality for women.

III. Follow-up actions

A. Goals and targets

32. We agree to contribute towards achieving the agreed international development goals and the targets set by the Millennium Declaration of the United Nations, adopted by the General Assembly in September 2000. We recognize the need for balanced and mutually supportive policies in the economic,

social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, while recognizing economic growth is important for sustainable development in all countries, especially developing countries and economies in transition.

B. Asian and Pacific initiatives

33. We reiterate our commitment to the full implementation at the national, subregional and regional levels of the Regional Action Programme for Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development, 2001-2005 and the Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment, both of which were adopted at the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific in September 2000. We look to ways to develop scientific infrastructure within the region to strengthen our ability to achieve the following sustainable development goals.

1. Capacity-building for sustainable development

34. We support the development and early implementation of a regional initiative on capacity-building for sustainable development that will build on existing programmes in the region and be closely linked up with all the other regional initiatives on sustainable development. Its primary goal is to develop the capacity in the region to address effectively the policy challenges and the necessary institutional reform and governance and promote effective partnerships for sustainable development. It may include promoting awareness of sustainable development; strengthening networks of civil society organizations involved in sustainable development; developing capacity, expertise and skills in integrating sustainable development principles into planning, implementation and assessment; building capacity in multilateral environmental agreements and international negotiations; enhancing capability for coping with natural disasters; and improving capacity to cope with the challenges of globalization, including developing skills in trade-environment policy analysis, planning and evaluation. It may also include building capacity for the promotion and use of traditional knowledge and practices, local and modern technologies and advanced sciences to address sustainable development problems. Equally important is the strengthening and capacity-building of subregional organizations working to promote environmental management and sustainable development.

2. Poverty reduction for sustainable development

35. We support the development and early implementation of a regional initiative on poverty reduction for sustainable development. This initiative may involve the implementation of the regional strategy on poverty reduction, which basically demands sustainable economic growth, inclusive social development, effective policies and institutions and increased investment in both physical and social infrastructure to meet the basic needs of the poor and the promotion of equitable access by all to assets, opportunities and decision-making. We recognize that poverty reduction in the region will require both conceptual and operational shifts and that, to achieve these, information dissemination and advocacy, training programmes and pilot and demonstration projects will have to be implemented.

3. Cleaner production and sustainable energy

36. We support the development and early implementation of a regional initiative on cleaner production and sustainable energy. Building on existing activities in the region and working with relevant institutions and linking with similar activities, the initiative may comprise capacity-building, education and training on clean technologies and renewable energy and energy-efficient technologies; database management and information dissemination and management, including promotion of public awareness; and technology transfer activities and implementation of joint research and demonstration projects, as well as policy studies on technology transfer. The initiative will also address the need for sustainable energy development on the basis of concrete issues identified by the fourth Ministerial Conference and also as suggested by the Bali Declaration on Asia-Pacific Perspectives on Energy and Sustainable Development, 2000.

4. Land management and biodiversity conservation

37. We support the development and early implementation of a regional initiative on land management, including combating desertification and land degradation, rehabilitation of degraded areas and biodiversity conservation. This initiative may include

capacity-building, education and training; database management, information dissemination and exchange, including the promotion of public awareness; and joint researches, surveys and pilot projects. These activities may be implemented in cooperation with the relevant regional, subregional and national centres or institutions dealing with biodiversity and land management or terrestrial ecosystem issues, and by establishing an Asian and Pacific regional network of heritage parks and nature reserves, which may have subregional member networks. In cooperation with existing national, subregional or regional centres, studies may be conducted on issues pertaining to land degradation issues, such as soil erosion, desertification, invasive species and sustainable agriculture.

38. We support the development and early implementation of a regional initiative to promote sustainable forests management in the Asian and Pacific region. The regional initiative may include the following: (a) implementation of a plan of action adopted at the United Nations Forum on Forests; (b) development and implementation of a national forest programme in countries in the region; and (c) promotion of the mobilization of financial resources, technical cooperation and technology transfer of environmentally sound technologies in forestry.

5. Protection and management of and access to freshwater resources

39. We support the development and early implementation of a regional initiative on freshwater resources. This initiative will aim to promote a national focus on fostering the integrated management of water resources and basins; improve and expand the delivery of services, especially to the poor; foster the conservation of water and increase system efficiency; promote regional cooperation and increase the mutually beneficial use of shared water resources within and between countries; and facilitate the exchange of water sector information and experience. We particularly welcome and support the development and early implementation of the Central Asian initiative on freshwater resources in the framework of the subregional Agenda 21.

6. Oceans, coastal and marine resources and sustainable development of small island States

40. We support the development and early implementation of a regional initiative on oceans, coastal and marine resources, including the sustainable development of small island States. This initiative may cover subregional and intraregional cooperation on conservation and management of marine ecosystems; waste management to prevent and control land- and sea-based pollution; and implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. To minimize waste and prevent coastal marine pollution, the initiative will also include implementing the Convention to Ban the Importation into Forum Island Countries of Hazardous and Radioactive Wastes and to Control the Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within the South Pacific Region, adopted at Waigani, Papua New Guinea, in September 1995; raising the awareness and knowledge of the public with regard to problems of solid wastes; and promoting technical, legal and scientific cooperation between and among Pacific countries to protect the marine environment. The initiative may also assist member countries in implementing action plans related to the Convention on the Law of the Sea and support various ongoing subregional initiatives in relevant areas.

41. We call for the early development and implementation of measures to address island vulnerability, including isolation, geographic dispersion, exposure to natural disasters, social and economic shocks and ecological fragility. We further acknowledge that the development of acceptable vulnerability indices may contribute to the prioritization of actions. We also call for further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, including its review in 2004.

7. Action on atmosphere and climate change

42. We support concrete initiatives focusing on air pollution in Asia and the Pacific. These need to address urban air pollution, transboundary air pollution and sandstorms. We support concrete initiatives to increase international and domestic action to address adaptation to climate change consistent with the provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Kyoto Protocol and the relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention.

C. Implementation mechanisms

43. We recognize that different levels of economic development in the region will require different approaches and mechanisms for implementing Agenda 21. We believe that if Agenda 21, the Regional Action Programme and the regional initiatives are to be effectively implemented, more vigorous and revitalized implementation mechanisms for consensus-building and partnership, as well as coordination and cooperation, should be in place at the national, subregional, regional and global levels. The overall objective of implementation mechanisms is to make development sustainable by alleviating poverty, enabling markets to work efficiently, strengthening social cohesion and ensuring ecosystem integrity. In alleviating poverty, the region could improve the economic, social and environmental asset base of the poor through affirmative actions. The region could also introduce new production strategies, both industrial and agricultural, and adopt a consumption pattern that could meet the basic needs of all the peoples of the region.

1. National

44. We stress that the key element of the implementation mechanism at the national level is the role of Governments. Countries in the region need to strengthen their economies, reform their public sectors and enhance good governance. They will have to increase significantly emphasis on education and health care systems, allocate additional resources and pay greater attention to meeting basic human needs in such areas as water supply and sanitation, shelter, food and nutrition. The accent should be on decentralization of power and empowering local institutions. The Governments may have to undertake studies to evolve the most efficient system of governance, keeping in view their social, political and cultural circumstances. Governments are encouraged to institutionalize mechanisms for multi-stakeholder participation. Countries in the region are also encouraged to develop and adopt, through participatory processes, indicator systems and targets for monitoring sustainable development.

2. Regional/subregional

45. We recognize the importance of strengthening the role of ESCAP in implementing, coordinating and monitoring the progress in the implementation of Agenda 21. We propose to hold regional reviews at ESCAP sessions, as necessary. Furthermore, subregional and regional concrete initiatives on sustainable development should continue to be developed in cooperation with donor countries and relevant regional and international organizations. In the implementation of Agenda 21, the Regional Action Programme and the regional initiatives, networks of civil society organizations and major groups should be fully utilized and supported.

3. Global

46. We believe that Agenda 21 cannot be successfully implemented unless the global commitments made at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development are fulfilled and the Rio principle of common but differentiated responsibilities is followed in its letter and spirit. Existing multilateral agreements and related institutions should be better utilized so as to be able to assist countries to meet their obligations under them efficiently. The developed countries should make their best efforts to increase their level of official development assistance (ODA) and take measures to enhance capacity for effective debt management. This should be accompanied by good governance at the international level as well as by open, equitable, transparent and non-discriminatory multilateral systems. In emphasizing the need to eliminate trade barriers that continue to be faced by the developing countries, it is imperative that the WTO commitments to improve market access for products of export interest to developing countries and economies in transition be faithfully implemented. Additional measures will be required, including the future role of the Commission on Sustainable Development, and strengthening and streamlining of the institutional arrangements for the multilateral agreements.

IV. Financing sustainable development

47. We recognize the importance of mobilizing in a coherent manner all available resources, especially domestic, for financing for sustainable development. However, developing countries, economies in transition and small island developing countries will continue to need international financial assistance in order to achieve sustainable development. Better access to export markets, private financial flows, especially

foreign direct investment, can play a substantial role in generating resources for sustainable development in developing countries and economies in transition. We note that the International Conference on Financing for Development, to be held in Mexico in March 2002, will consider, in an integrated manner, all resources of financing for sustainable development. We welcome practical and innovative ways of mobilizing and identifying resources to support developing country efforts to achieve sustainable development. In order to move forward, we therefore urge all the developed countries to strive to reach the accepted United Nations ODA target of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product as soon as possible. In addition, developed countries are called upon to pursue the transfer of environmentally sound technologies and know-how to developing countries on favourable terms in accordance with Agenda 21.

48. We are aware that the Global Environment Facility is a key financial mechanism. We welcome the current performance appraisal of the Facility and support measures to improve operational procedures and project implementation as well as a more strategic approach to the Facility's geographical coverage. In this regard, the Facility should be strengthened within its mandate.

49. We also recall our observation at the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2000, that additional resources could also be obtained through increased participation by civil society and the private sector. Civil society is an important partner in improving environmental management and accountability. The business sector is a potent catalyst for development and a critical partner in the pursuit of eco-efficiency. Regional and subregional cooperation could significantly facilitate resource mobilization and the transfer of environmentally sound technologies and know-how. Strengthening regional and subregional cooperation is particularly important for activities that enhance national capacity-building processes.

V. Final statements

50. The Asian and Pacific region calls upon the World Summit on Sustainable Development to accord priority attention at the global level to the issues and the initiatives as mentioned in this platform.

51. We submit this Phnom Penh Regional Platform on Sustainable Development for Asia and the Pacific, together with the Regional Message for the 10-year Review of the Implementation of the Outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the Regional Action Programme adopted at the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2000, to the World Summit on Sustainable Development and call on the international community for its support and cooperation.

52. We affirm our commitment to full and active participation in the World Summit on Sustainable Development and its preparatory process and call for all countries to participate in the Summit at the highest level.

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Letter dated 7 January 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the conclusions of the Chairperson of the meeting of the Arctic Council held in Rovaniemi, Finland, on 11 June 2001.

I would be grateful if you could have this document circulated as a document of the Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development at its second session, from 28 January to 8 February 2002.

(*Signed*) Marjatta **Rasi**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

02-20700 (E) 160102

Annex

Preparing for Johannesburg 2002
An initial Arctic message: 10 years of Arctic environmental cooperation

Rovaniemi, Finland, 11 June 2001

Conclusions of the Chairperson

The global dialogue on sustainable development has high relevance for the circumpolar North, the Arctic. The message from the Arctic is unique, due to its virgin nature and specific living conditions. Given the impact of global developments in the Arctic and the significance thereof to mankind, the voice of the Arctic should be heeded at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, which is to be held in Johannesburg, South Africa, in 2002.

The Arctic Council is a high-level intergovernmental forum, with all Arctic countries, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, the Russian Federation, Sweden and the United States of America as members, and with the indigenous peoples of the Arctic participating in its work on a permanent basis. The Arctic Council and its specialized working groups build policies based upon the work of Governments, indigenous people, subregional actors, parliamentarians, non-governmental organizations and international organizations.

Our commitment to contribute to sustainable development

These conclusions will serve as a springboard for Arctic participation in the preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg and will be supplemented as the preparatory process unfolds. Regional cooperation is indispensable for the participatory processes and provides building blocks in the global cooperation on sustainable development.

The aim of the sustainable development programme of the Arctic Council is to expand opportunities of future generations in the Arctic, and to promote economic activity that creates wealth and human capital, while simultaneously safeguarding the natural capital of the region. Arctic cooperation contributes to regional and international stability and security in their comprehensive sense. The ways and means of Arctic cooperation might serve as a model for regional cooperative initiatives in other parts of the world, including monitoring, assessment and concrete action.

The European Union, the territory of which extends beyond the Arctic circle, is invited to cooperate closely with its Arctic partners in developing contributions from the Arctic region to the Johannesburg process as it unfolds.

Sustainability in utilization of natural resources

Global market demands and technological progress offer new opportunities for expanded utilization of natural resources in the Arctic. If properly managed, these opportunities can bolster sustainable growth and well-being in the region. Without precautionary measures, however, the traditional livelihood of indigenous and other local people, as well as the existence of vast areas of pristine nature, may be in

danger. Securing sustainability in the use of natural resources, including biological resources, is an important challenge to all Arctic States. Arctic States should assess the environmental, social and economic impacts of any undertakings to exploit resources in the Arctic portions of their territory, taking into account the latest research on the specific circumstances of the Arctic.

The Arctic States will encourage a public and private sector dialogue in the Arctic on environmental practises in the utilization of natural resources in the region. The Arctic Council Environment Impact Assessment guidelines and the Offshore Oil and Gas guidelines help serve this purpose. Use of resources requires investment in infrastructure, which should take into account the principles of sustainability and the social needs of local communities.

Climate change and its effects in the Arctic

According to an overwhelming majority of scientists, and from long-term observations by local people, climate change is taking place with strong, variable and largely unpredictable effects on nature and communities in the Arctic. The biggest temperature increases are expected to occur in the Arctic. Climate change may lead to the acceleration of stratospheric ozone depletion in the region. Changes in ocean currents are possible and carry the risk of severe effects on living conditions in some parts of the Arctic. Thawing permafrost poses dangers to communities and industries in many parts of the Arctic and could, with increasing emissions of greenhouse gases, accelerate climate change. There is a risk of a vicious circle with a large global impact. Actions aimed at decelerating human contributions to climate change — addressing emissions of greenhouse gases, for example — may help Arctic residents better adjust to coming changes.

The Arctic Council has launched an ambitious project to assess the environmental, social and economic consequences of climate variability and change and the effects of increased ultraviolet radiation in the Arctic, the results of which will in due course be placed at the disposal of the international community.

The Arctic as a sink for pollutants

The Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy, adopted in 1991 and continued under the Arctic Council, highlighted the risks posed to human health and wildlife by persistent organic pollutants and heavy metals. The Arctic serves as a basin for global pollution, transported via mainly atmospheric and riverine pathways and by sea currents from sources located far away from the region. The international Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and earlier regional protocols on persistent organic pollutants and heavy metals are of utmost importance to the region. Arctic countries intend to support developing countries and countries with economies in transition in their efforts to eliminate or reduce production and/or use of persistent organic pollutants and reduce the harmful effects of heavy metals on nature and human health.

Radioactivity — a threat to the Arctic

Long-lived radio nuclides from emissions of radioactivity in the past, in and outside the Arctic region, can still be measured in the Arctic. Of great concern are the potential consequences of accidents in nuclear power plants, the handling and storage of nuclear weapons, the decommissioning of nuclear submarines and the

disposal of spent nuclear fuel and other radioactive waste from submarines and vessels. A nuclear accident would have particularly severe consequences in the Arctic because of the vulnerability of the food chains to radioactive contamination. Protection of the Arctic environment requires rigorous adherence by all States to relevant international conventions and guidance on radiation protection, nuclear safety, radioactive waste management and emergency preparedness and their response in order to minimize the probability and consequences of accidents.

Conservation as a global and local interest

The Arctic is a distinct and significant component of the diversity of life on Earth. While much of the Arctic remains in a natural state, its nature and wildlife are increasingly facing various threats caused by human beings. Some of these damaging impacts stem from local activities, such as disturbance, loss and fragmentation of habitats resulting from oil, gas and hydropower development, road building and other infrastructure projects, tourism, unsustainable management of natural resources as well as overexploitation of living resources. Other impacts arise from global problems such as climate change and long-range pollution.

The Arctic Council contributes to conservation of nature and biological diversity through its Strategic Plan for the Conservation of Arctic Biological Diversity, in line with the objectives of the International Convention on Biological Diversity (Rio de Janeiro 1992). On the basis of the overview report "Arctic Flora and Fauna; Status and Conservation", the Arctic Council will prepare recommendations for cooperative and collaborative conservation measures. In these efforts it is particularly important to bear in mind the concerns of the many indigenous and local communities that remain linked to their lands, waters and wildlife.

Viable communities in the Arctic

Arctic communities and cultures remain vital and resilient, despite tremendous social, demographic and technological changes during the last century. Many Arctic populations are still very dependent on traditional sources of livelihood. With technological advances, some traditional ways of using the environment and its renewable resources for subsistence have become economically less viable. New economic activities are urgently needed to support a population big enough to keep communities viable and enhance quality of life in the Arctic.

Capacity-building, including through cooperation among educational institutions in the Arctic, can contribute to the viability of Arctic communities. Traditional knowledge should be used in capacity-building. Use of advanced information technology can mitigate problems related to long distances. Tourism complements traditional occupations but also calls for attention to environmental impacts, navigation safety and emergency preparedness as it expands to new areas.

Arctic indigenous communities cannot take the availability of health services for granted, especially not in their native language. The harmful effects of pollutants on food safety, the spread of infectious diseases and drug abuse pose threats to public health. In some parts of the Arctic the life expectancy of people in indigenous communities is alarmingly low. The Arctic Council will contribute to the improvement of human health in the Arctic.

Investments in human resources assure a better future for children and youth in the Arctic. More recognition should be given to the vital contribution made by women to their communities.

The fate of the Arctic is largely dependent on progress in global efforts to adjust human economic activities to the capacity of nature. Global action, with the circumpolar North as an active partner, is essential for the future of the Arctic.

United Nations E/CN.17/2002/PC.2/10

Economic and Social Council

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Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development
Second preparatory session
28 January-8 February 2002
Item 2 of the provisional agenda*
Comprehensive review and assessment of progress achieved in the implementation of Agenda 21 and the other outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, as well as of the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21

Letter dated 7 January 2002 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon the instructions of my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you the following documents from the International Conference on Freshwater, held in Bonn from 3 to 7 December 2001:

- Ministerial Declaration (see annex I);
- Bonn Recommendations for Action (see annex II);
- Bonn Keys (see annex III).

I should be grateful if you would circulate this letter and its annexes as an official document of the Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

(*Signed*) Hanns **Schumacher**
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

* E/CN.17/2002/PC.2/1.

02-21332 (E) 220102

Annex I to the letter dated 7 January 2002 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Ministerial Declaration

adopted by ministers meeting in the
Ministerial Session of the International Conference on Freshwater
Bonn, 4 December 2001

We, ministers with responsibilities for water affairs, environment and development from 46 countries throughout the world, have assembled in Bonn to assess progress in implementing Agenda 21 and to discuss actions required to increase water security and to achieve sustainable management of water resources.

We consider that the World Summit for Sustainable Development, scheduled for August 2002 in Johannesburg, needs to demonstrate renewed commitment to sustainable development and political will to action.

We consider the equitable and sustainable use and the protection of the world's freshwater resources a key challenge facing governments on the road to a safer, more peaceful, equitable and prosperous world. Combating poverty is the main challenge for achieving equitable and sustainable development, and water plays a vital role in relation to human health, livelihood, economic growth as well as sustaining ecosystems. The outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development must include decisive action on water issues.

We express our deep concern that at the beginning of the 21st century 1.2 billion people live a life in poverty without access to safe drinking water, and that almost 2.5 billion have no access to proper sanitation. Safe and sufficient water and sanitation are basic human needs. The world-wide struggle to alleviate poverty must bring safe and decent living conditions to those who are deprived of these basic requirements.

We confirm our resolve to reach the International Development Targets agreed by the UN Millennium Summit, in particular the target to halve, until the year 2015, the proportion of people living in extreme poverty and to halve the proportion of people who suffer from hunger and are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water. We also confirm our resolve to stop the unsustainable exploitation of water resources by developing water management strategies at regional, national and local levels.

Water is needed in all aspects of life. For sustainable development, it is necessary to take into account water's social, environmental and economic dimensions and all of its varied uses. Water management therefore requires an integrated approach.

We emphasise that ten years after the UN Conference on Environment and Development and the Dublin Conference, and several years after the global water conferences in Paris and The Haque, there is still a need for greater commitment to implement commonly agreed principles

on water resource management. Pressures on the world's scarce freshwater resources and aquatic systems have increased. Water pollution and unsustainable patterns of water consumption are among the causes. Water use efficiency needs to improve.

We agree that governments, the international community, the private sector, the nongovernmental organisations and all other stakeholders need to base their actions on the following:

(Governance)
The primary responsibility for ensuring the sustainable and equitable management of water resources rests with the governments.
Each country should have in place applicable arrangements for the governance of water affairs at all levels and, where appropriate, accelerate water sector reforms.
We urge the private sector to join with government and civil society to contribute to bringing water and sanitation services to the unserved and to strengthen investment and management capabilities. Privately managed service delivery should not imply private ownership of water resources. Service providers should be subject to effective regulation and monitoring.
We encourage riparian states to co-operate on matters related to international watercourses.

(Funding Gap)
There is an enormous gap in funding investments in water infrastructure, maintenance, training and capacity building, research, and data generation.
It is urgent to close this gap using existing resources more efficiently and with additional financial resources from all sources: public investment budgets, capital markets, and community based finance, user and polluter charges; as well as increased international development financing from public and private sources particularly for developing countries to reflect the acute needs in the water sector.
The lack of financial resources for water infrastructure investment, operations and maintenance is particularly hurting the poor in Least Developed Countries and in other countries with people living in extreme poverty.
Critical actions for closing the financial gap are poverty alleviation and the improvement of opportunities for trade and income generation for developing countries.
Resources also need to be made available to assist developing countries to mitigate the effects of natural disasters and to assist in adapting to the impacts of climate change.
Water development programmes, to be successful, should be based on a good understanding of the negative impact desertification causes to people living in affected areas.

(Role of the international community)
We call on the international community to strengthen its commitment and its efforts to enable developing countries to manage water sustainably and to ensure an equitable sharing of benefits from water resources.
We call upon the Secretary General of the United Nations to strengthen the co-ordination and coherence of activities within the UN system on water issues in an inclusive manner.
We recall the agreed UN target for official development assistance of 0.7% of GDP. Developed countries which have not yet reached the target should exert their best efforts to do so.

(Capacity Building and Technology transfer)
We recognise that capacity building and innovative technologies including the improvement of indigenous technologies are needed to efficiently utilise water, control pollution and develop new and alternative water sources in water stressed countries. We will support capacity building programmes and information exchange to ensure the effective use of human, financial, and technical resources for water management. We will facilitate technology transfer initiatives to

enable technologically less developed countries to acquire capacity to manage water with the best available knowledge and equipment.
We need improved and coherent assessments of state and trends in the world water situation.

(Gender)
Water resources management should be based on a participatory approach. Both men and women should be involved and have an equal voice in managing the sustainable use of water resources and sharing of benefits. The role of women in water related areas needs to be strengthened and their participation broadened.

(Next steps)
We urge the World Summit on Sustainable Development to take account of the outcome of this International Conference on Freshwater.
We expect that the International Year of Freshwater in 2003, and the 3rd World Water Forum in Japan will be a good opportunity to further discuss on the roles and actions for all players in international society on the issues of sustainable development of freshwater.
We thank the government of Germany for its hospitality and its determination to promote dynamic action on water issues.

Annex II to the letter dated 7 January 2002 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

WATER – A KEY TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

International Conference on Freshwater, Bonn, 3 – 7 December 2001

Recommendations for Action

In December 2001 an innovative meeting took place in Bonn, focussing on water as a key to sustainable development. The conference brought together government delegates from 118 countries, including 46 Ministers, representatives from 47 international organisations and delegates of 73 organisations from major groups and civil society. It was a meeting appropriate for the age of global partnerships as it demonstrated that governments, the private sector, civil society and local and grassroots initiatives can work together in a spirit of partnership while acknowledging the differences in their mandates, roles and responsibilities. It neither avoided nor resolved the challenging and contentious issues in water affairs that are debated in communities or at national and international levels. However, it reached a remarkable degree of consensus given the controversial nature of these issues and the broad representation of stakeholders taking part in the meeting.

These recommendations for action result from this conference. As convenor of the conference, the German government is pleased to take them forward.

* * *

Ten years after the UN Conference on Environment and Development, the world is preparing for the World Summit on Sustainable Development. More than ever, all the people of the world need development which is sustainable: women and men, the old and the young, the poor and the wealthy, people in the south and in the north. The challenge to turn the concept of sustainable development into reality is immense. Yet the only other choice would be to accept poverty, deprivation, insecurity and discrimination as a fate for billions of human beings, and continued unsustainable management of natural resources in many parts of the world.

The International Conference on Freshwater has reviewed the role of water in sustainable development, taken stock of progress in the implementation of Agenda 21 and identified how this implementation can improve. It has built on many previous efforts and conferences which have defined the challenges and developed principles and policies related to water and sustainable development. There is often a gap between making such policies and putting them into practice. So this conference focussed on practical ideas.

Water is a key to sustainable development, crucial to its social, economic and environmental dimensions. Water is life, essential for human health. Water is an economic and a social good, and should be allocated first to satisfy basic human needs. Many people regard access to drinking water and sanitation to be a human right. There is no substitute for water: without it, humans and other living organisms die, farmers cannot grow food, businesses cannot operate. Providing water security is a key dimension of poverty reduction.

Despite improvements in water use efficiency, the use and demand for freshwater and the incidence of water pollution have increased. Access to safe water supply and adequate sanitation, particularly in developing countries, has during the last two decades barely kept pace with population growth. The demand for water for food, human consumption and sanitation is increasing. Ecosystems are becoming increasingly stressed by water scarcity and pollution.

The conference has analysed the implications of recent landmark decisions taken by the international community. Most relevant among them are the International Development Target set by the UN Millennium Assembly "to halve, by 2015, the proportion of people living in extreme poverty and to halve the proportion of people who suffer from hunger and are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water", and the emphasis on stewardship "to stop the unsustainable exploitation of water resources". To reach that target for drinking water, best available estimates show that, by 2015, an additional 1.6 billion people will need access to adequate water infrastructure and services. In addition, over 2 billion will need improved sanitation.

Estimates for required global investment in all forms of water-related infrastructure vary widely up to $ 180 billion annually, compared to a current estimated level of $ 70-80 billion. Water supply and sanitation for basic human needs, however, accounts for only a small proportion of these totals. its needs are estimated at approximately $ 20 billion annually, compared to a current level of $ 10 billion.

The participants of the conference have noted that the challenges have been adequately defined, the key targets described, and locally appropriate principles and policies for water management identified. They have identified positive ways forward relating to a wide range of water-related issues.

The conference recommends priority actions under the following three headings:

- Governance
- Mobilising financial resources
- Capacity building and sharing knowledge

The recommendations are addressed to the international preparatory process of the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg for consideration and review. They also provide a reference for the Third World Water Forum in Kyoto, and to all the different types of organisations that are working in water, poverty and sustainable development.

To relate to the World Summit on Sustainable Development's overall objective of sustainable development, sectoral themes such as water need to be harmonised with, and possibly integrated into, national strategies for poverty reduction (such as Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers).

Water security for all is an achievable goal. There is enough water for everybody in the world, but only if we change the way we manage it. The responsibility to act is ours – for the benefit of the present and future generations.

Actions in the Field of Governance

1. Secure equitable access to water for all people

- The primary responsibility for ensuring equitable and sustainable water resources management rests with governments. It requires the participation of all stakeholders who use or protect water resources and their ecosystems. Special attention is needed to improve the participation of those people, particularly the poor, who are often excluded from decision-making.

- Public responsibility includes the task to set and enforce stable and transparent rules that enable all water users to gain equitable access to, and make use of, water.

- Countries should be in the process of developing water resources management plans by 2005.

- Water resources policies and management should be better linked with other international agreements and processes, such as those concerned with climate change, desertification, biodiversity, wetlands, dams, the marine environment and sustainable forests. They should also be linked to international processes on development, finance and to the national benefits from trade in other goods.

2. Ensure that water infrastructure and services deliver to poor people

- Water is an integral part of sustainable development. Policies for all aspects of water should be clearly linked to policies for poverty reduction and economic growth. Governments should review the priority given to water and sanitation and to productive water infrastructure in national and international programmes to tackle poverty.

- Water infrastructure and services should be pro-poor and gender-sensitive. The plans should be realistic and targeted to the needs of the poor, and should include targets and indicators of progress at all levels.

- The UN Millennium Declaration target on drinking water should be complemented by a corresponding target to halve the proportion of people lacking access to improved sanitation by 2015.

3. Promote gender equity

- Water management policies should not distinguish between water users by gender and should allow men and women equitable access to water resources, including safe drinking water and sanitation.

- Water resources management should be based on a participatory approach. Men and women should be equally involved in managing the sustainable use of water resources and sharing of benefits. To achieve equity, in many parts of the world the role of women in water management needs to be strengthened and their participation broadened.

- Water experts and policy makers should be trained to work in a gender-inclusive manner. In many places, specific support is also needed to empower women to take up leadership and managerial roles in water resources policies and management.

- Water policies and water management systems should be gender-sensitive. They should reflect the division of roles and labour - paid and unpaid - between men and women in all settings related to water. Data relating to water should be disaggregated by gender.

4. Appropriately allocate water among competing demands

- Water should be equitably and sustainably allocated, firstly to basic human needs and then to the functioning of ecosystems and different economic uses including food security. Allocation mechanisms should balance competing demands and take into account the social, economic and environmental values of water. They should reflect the links between surface and groundwater and those between inland and coastal water, growing urbanisation, land management, the need to maintain ecosystem integrity and the threats of desertification and environmental degradation.

- Integrated water resources management should be sustainable and optimise water security and human benefit per unit of water while protecting the integrity of ecosystems. Water should be treated as a valuable and finite resource. Water demand should be more actively managed, and water use efficiency increased in all uses.

- Irrigated agriculture is the world's largest user of water, and therefore offers the largest potential in terms of water savings, the benefits of which can be shared with other sectors.

- Countries should set appropriate national targets to improve the equity and efficiency with which water resources are used.

- The value of ecosystems should be recognised in water allocation and river basin management. Allocations should at a minimum ensure flows through ecosystems at levels that maintain their integrity.

5. Share benefits

- Watersheds, river basins, lakes and aquifers must be the primary frame of reference for water resources management. Institutional and participatory mechanisms need to be developed at this level.

- Water can promote regional co-operation. Such co-operation across internal and international boundaries should be intensified as a means to share the upstream and downstream benefits.

- Co-operative management of such water is best served by long-term commitments. Active strategies should be initiated to exchange water-related knowledge and develop mutual understanding.

6. Promote participatory sharing of benefits from large projects

- In many water-scarce countries, the development of new water sources and infrastructure may be necessary to provide water for development and to mitigate against the impacts of desertification, droughts and climate change.

- Decisions to construct large water infrastructure projects including dams should be taken after a participatory integrated assessment of needs and options, taking a precautionary approach into account. Actions to improve the performance of existing infrastructure should be a high priority. All risks, costs and benefits should be fully accounted for. The role of large infrastructure in sustainable development and poverty reduction should be directly demonstrated.

- Project designs should minimise potential negative impacts on the environment and enhance the livelihoods of project affected parties. People affected by a project should participate in project decision-making and share in project benefits. Proper mechanisms and incentives should be in place for compliance with rules and agreements concerning environmental and social aspects of projects.

7. Improve water management

- National water management policies should take account of the impact of trade in water-intensive goods on water availability and ecosystems integrity. For example, in water scarce regions, people should grow crops with low water requirements or of high value compared to the water used. Options for improving the water balance by importing water-intensive goods from water-rich regions should be explored where appropriate and cost-effective.

- Subsidies that inhibit water use efficiency or cause negative effects on the environment should be reduced.

8. Protect water quality and ecosystems

- Drinking water quality should be safeguarded because it is essential for human health.

- Water governance arrangements should protect ecosystems and preserve or restore the ecological integrity of groundwater, rivers, lakes, wetlands and associated coastal zones. This will maintain the wide range of ecological services that healthy ecosystems provide and the livelihoods that depend upon them.

- Water resources management should complement work to combat desertification and other forms of environmental and ecological degradation.

- Pollution prevention should be prioritised, because it is normally more cost effective than the restoration of polluted waters. Water supplies should be protected from pollution from the source to the user.

- Treatment of waste water must be intensified and made more affordable for municipalities and industry. Investments in appropriate sanitation facilities should protect water bodies from pollution and reduce health hazards. Countries should intensify their attention to the management of diffuse (non-point) sources of pollution.

- Effective legal frameworks for protecting water quality should employ the full range of policy instruments including regulation, voluntary measures, market- and information-based tools. Where such frameworks exist, water quality should be monitored and the regulations enforced. This approach should make use of the polluter pays principle, thus giving incentives to polluters to apply the best available technology to prevent pollution.

9. Manage risks to cope with variability and climate change

- Water management arrangements should take account of climate variability and expand the capacity to identify trends, manage risks and adapt to hazards such as floods and droughts. Anticipation and prevention are more effective and less expensive than having to react to emergencies. Early warning systems should become an integral part of water resources development and planning.

- Closer links should be established between development and disaster management systems. This should be achieved both by reducing poor people's vulnerability to disasters and by strengthening post-disaster recovery systems.

- Decision-making mechanisms under uncertainty should ensure flexibility to respond to both rapid onset disasters and long-term changes to water resources. Risk management should be an integral part of water resources management This should include establishing close co-ordination beyond the water sector.

- Exposure to flood risks should be minimised through wetland and watershed restoration, better land use planning and improved drainage.

- Particular attention needs to be paid to the poor in both rural and urban areas who are typically resident on land vulnerable to disasters and whose livelihoods are particularly vulnerable to their impacts.

- Organisations that deal with disaster preparedness and management should be strengthened. Such action will also place societies in a better position to deal with future climate change.

10. Encourage more efficient service provision

- The predominant public delivery of water services should be complemented by more use of different and often innovative forms of service delivery, including self help groups formed by the people themselves, informal service providers, co-operative societies, and local and international private enterprises. In each situation, the approach should be chosen that would best benefit people and the environment.

- All service providers should be subject to effective regulation, benchmarking and monitoring. They should be efficient, accountable, and protected from inappropriate pressures. There should be clear separation

between the roles and responsibilities of the regulator and the service providers.

- Regulation is a national level function which should be strengthened through international networking and the application of consistent principles, standards and methods.

11. Manage water at the lowest appropriate level

- People need to be centrally involved in management and governance decisions concerning water resources. Local stakeholders should develop mechanisms for collaborative management of the local water needs and resources. The design and operation of water services should use a people centred approach and be based on understanding the needs of the people to be served.

- Decision making, implementation of projects, and operation of services should be decentralised to the lowest level capable of handling such tasks, keeping in mind that watersheds are the appropriate frame of reference for water resources management. Local governments, community-based organisations and private service providers (where they exist) should be the key players in local management and the provision of local services. This requires appropriate legislation and financial mechanisms to empower local government and to facilitate the role of small scale service providers.

- National governments should strengthen their domestic public funding capabilities and create a viable financial frame for local governments. This will require significant support to modernise the financial planning, management and accounting skills in local governments. Decentralisation of responsibilities for water and other services to local government should go hand in hand with parallel actions to improve management and provide clear authority to raise and retain revenues.

12. Combat corruption effectively

- The fight against corruption must start with awareness building and should aim at maximising transparency to the public in the entire decision making process of a project, from planning through procurement to construction and operation. It must focus on all parties to any corrupt practices.

- Water governance arrangements should improve accountability, introduce and enforce appropriate legal provisions against corruption, monitor the performance of public institutions and private companies, develop codes of conduct, and invite civil society to play an active role in these processes.

- Assured access for citizens to all relevant information in the public domain is a powerful tool for fighting corruption. The public should also have access to effective and affordable justice.

- All actions, whether initiated by International Financial Institutions, countries or others, to fight corruption are welcomed.

Actions in the Field of Mobilising Financial Resources

13. Ensure significant increase in all types of funding

- All sources for funding in developing countries – public funding from general budget revenues, water tariffs and charges, external assistance, and private investment – must be strengthened to bridge the gap between current and required levels of expenditure.

14. Strengthen public funding capabilities

- Public budgets are now, and will continue to be, the biggest source of investment in water, particularly in low income countries. Even where the mobilisation of private investment is successful, public funds will generally be needed to support complementary investments and for instruments to protect the public from hazards and reduce risk to investors and suppliers of goods and services.

- Macro economic growth is necessary to strengthen the national and local public revenue base in developing countries, and hence to give the governments the opportunity to put more money into the water sector. For many developing countries, the prospects for such economic growth are linked to broader issues of equitable international trade.

- Investments in water for productivity, and in water and sanitation for health, can result in significant national economic gains.

- Where scarce public funds are being allocated to water, priority should be given to meeting the basic needs of the poor and to preserving the integrity of ecosystems.

- Where domestic capital markets exist, they should be developed further to finance the water sector, for example through issuing local or central government bonds.

15. Improve economic efficiency to sustain operations and investment

- Water service providers should aim for financial sustainability through receiving sufficient income from their customers to finance operation, maintenance and capital costs. Balancing this aim, however, cost recovery objectives should not be a barrier to poor people's access to water supply and sanitation. Where the poor cannot afford to pay the full cost of water supply and sanitation services, tariff systems that allow social targeting should be established. Options include transparent subsidy arrangements from public funds and cross-subsidy from other customers.

- Efforts to recover costs should focus on those consumers who use the most water. The authorities that set tariffs should be willing to charge the full cost to users that can afford to pay.

- Transparent subsidies can be applied where appropriate and necessary to preserve ecosystems.

- Subsidies to any water-related activity should be reduced and finally eliminated if they are leading to inefficient use of water or causing negative effects for the environment.

16. Make water attractive for private investment

- In view of the high capital demand for water infrastructure investment, it is necessary to augment public funding by mobilising private funding for water utilities, wastewater treatment, irrigation and other water-related programmes. These could take the form of public-private partnerships, noting that privately-managed service delivery does not imply private ownership of water resources.

- Investors seek confidence that their legal and financial interests are protected for the full contract duration, and that they can recover their investment over time. This implies appropriate regulatory arrangements, transparent contracting procedures, reliable cost recovery mechanisms, and public acceptance of such arrangements. Where there is no track record of successful private investment, pilot projects require additional attention by governments, stakeholders and the international community to ensure that the interests of the water consumers, the environment, and the investors are safeguarded.

- The self help potential of local communities should be used more widely to reduce the financial requirements of rural and urban projects for poverty alleviation. Support should be given to NGOs and others who assist local communities to develop micro-finance capabilities.

17. Increase development assistance to water

- The international donor and lending community should aim to raise the priority that it gives to water in the developing and transition countries. Developed countries which have agreed to, but not yet reached, the agreed UN target for official development assistance of 0.7% of GDP should exert their best efforts to do so.

- Development assistance should be complementary to domestic sources of funding and serve a catalytic role, building capacity and helping local and regional institutions to define their own solutions and models, and creating an enabling environment attractive to potential investors. Private sector participation should not be imposed on developing countries as a conditionality for funding.

- External development assistance for direct provision of water infrastructure and services in developing countries needs to be targeted towards serving the poor (especially the rural poor for whom the prospects of other types of service provision are remoter than in urban areas), preserving the integrity of ecosystems and mitigating the effects of climate variability and change.

- The donor community should use its expertise and leverage to help developing countries to mobilise investment financing from all sources, including commercial ones.

Actions in the Field of Capacity Building and Sharing Knowledge

18. Focus education and training on water wisdom

- Knowledge is the foundation of understanding and decision-making. Shared knowledge, and respect for different forms of knowledge, are the basis for building consensus and resolving conflicts. Decisions can only lead to effective management actions if the actors have the right knowledge and skills. Enhancing human capacities at all levels is a key for wise water management. This needs to be based on integrating the distinct and complementary contributions of local, traditional knowledge, knowledge from different professionals and disciplines and the hands-on experience of practitioners. All can and should learn from each other. Practical actions to build partnerships and create channels for sharing information at all levels are a key first step in developing integrated water management.

- Education and training, both formal and non-formal, should give all people respect for water as a finite, vulnerable and valuable resource. It should make sure that the right skills are in the right place at all levels from local communities to international institutions. This would include technical skills, knowledge of the multiple benefits and ecological services of water, the relevance of sanitation and hygiene, a basic understanding of integrated water resources management as well as new skills in areas such as business management, risk management and community participation.

- Education at all levels should promote a holistic, interdisciplinary approach to water management.

- Human resources development for water should follow a five-pronged approach: education for the formative years (primary and secondary education), vocational training, university education, continuous education and research capacity strengthening. Education and training should be demand-oriented, participatory and hands-on, and make use of information and communications technology, distance learning and institutional twinning arrangements. Training for water professionals should bridge gaps between hitherto separated disciplines such as engineering, economics, hydrology, ecology, gender, and social science. It should include training in participatory approaches and in the realities of the lives of the poor.

- The mass media, traditional media and other avenues of public awareness building, including advertising, should be used to convey the basic messages of good water management and of hygiene and sanitation. Such messages may combine human values with both traditional and modern scientific knowledge.

- The knowledge and skills needed for water management change as new knowledge is generated and new needs emerge. Mechanisms to disseminate knowledge, change curricula, exchange teaching materials and create partnerships between educators and trainers around the world should be developed and funded.

- Concerted actions to enhance the skills of poor people, and especially women, are needed. These should be adapted to local needs and opportunities. NGOs and other civil society organisations often have a special role in such programmes.

- Workers and their Trade Unions should be recognised as an important resource for knowledge, skills and expertise related to water.

- Specific initiatives are needed to create awareness and provide skills and experience to young people. These should create better professional opportunities and bring young people from different parts of the world together to share experience and create mutual respect and understanding. Donor countries should expand programmes for young professionals from around the world to gain hands-on experience, and in particular to work closely with poor communities.

19. Focus research and information management on problem solving

- Knowledge must be shared globally and packaged appropriately for intended target audiences. This includes the provision by all countries of basic data for research and assessment. Information management must provide information to decision-makers at the right time and in a form they understand.

- Research and knowledge sharing on water should contribute more effectively to preventing and solving problems, and follow an holistic interdisciplinary approach.

- Better knowledge is needed everywhere, but always has a price. Knowledge management should focus on quality, not quantity.

- Internationally-accepted indicators on different aspects of water management need to be developed. These should include indicators for the relevant targets in the UN Millennium Declaration and for other relevant national and international goals. These indicators should be developed through participatory processes, including stakeholders from different levels and around the world. The World Water Assessment Programme should take a lead role in the development of these indicators.

- Sharing knowledge through dialogue is often the starting point for developing further collaboration on water management through building trust and mutual understanding. For example, river basin organisations could start with data and knowledge sharing and develop into other activities as and when there is a clear and agreed need.

20. Make water institutions more effective

- Many existing water institutions need to change their focus and their method of addressing challenges, by reorienting their role and structure appropriately.

- Capacity building and technical assistance are among the essential elements for institutional change for integrated water management. This is a long-term process, which should be based on gradual, practical steps. It must be flexible, as needs are constantly changing. Collaboration and international partnerships are particularly needed in many developing countries, where reform is most needed but resources are most limited.

- Specific initiatives to strengthen institutions at the community level, that take ethical issues into account, are essential for empowerment of the poor. This requires both mobilisation at the community level and, where necessary, changes to policies, laws and government organisations to create the enabling environment through which local-level institutions can operate.

- There are many positive experiences of institutional change throughout the developing world. Specific initiatives to develop models of good practice and improve South-South sharing of experiences are needed.

- Successful institutional change and reform depend on the effectiveness of the wider governance environment. Institutional reform programmes should complement governance improvements.

21. Share knowledge and innovative technologies

- Appropriate technologies for the whole range of water resources management and service delivery should be available on an equitable basis to countries and regions experiencing water related problems. They should build on and strengthen existing and innovative knowledge and environmentally friendly technologies.

- Systematic efforts are needed to revive and learn from traditional and indigenous technologies (for example rain water harvesting) around the world.

- The wealth of available experience in all countries and sectors needs to be tapped in a systematic fashion. Donor agencies and industry need to co-operate for the transfer and adaptation of the best available technologies. South-South technical transfer is also important.

Roles

Water-related organisations are moving on from isolation to partnership. This process involves changes to laws, policies and institutional procedures, complemented by actions to build capacities. People and organisations fulfilling a new role must be able to meet their new responsibilities. This is a long process that needs to be properly resourced, for example by guidance in social responsibility or accountability. International partnerships can play a catalytic role in this process.

22. Governments

- Governments, including local government, should more actively play their key role in water governance and drive local, national and international processes of water management reform.

- Governments should consider and, where appropriate, adapt and apply internationally recognised principles to national and local actions, whilst respecting different cultures, traditions and legal frameworks. Governments should play the pivotal role in the mobilisation of financial and human resources, the setting and enforcement of legislation and standards and in the establishment of opportunities and procedures for a broader public participation in water management.

- Many governments are moving away from service provision towards facilitating that provision by others.

23. Local Communities

- People at the local level actively manage many aspects of water resources. They often have a better understanding of the real potential and limitations of their local environment. They can be empowered to meet this role by social mobilisation processes.

- Concerted actions are needed to enhance capacities and knowledge, secure rights, develop leadership, overcome local inequalities and ensure that local communities have access to the technologies and financial and other resources that they need to turn choices into actions.

- Indigenous people often have particular knowledge of the spiritual value of water, which they can share with others.

24. Workers and Trade Unions

- Workers and Trade Unions should be included in participatory forms of decision-making and particularly in joint committees of management and Trade Unions.

- In order to ensure workers' contributions to sustainable water development, core labour standards should be accepted and implemented, particularly those relating to freedom of association.

25. Non-Governmental Organisations

- NGOs should continue to participate in policy making and implementation, including the delivery of services, and to represent the interests of stakeholder groups and the environment. They can play an important role in advocacy and in ensuring the accountability of government and

others. They can also play an important role in creating a link between government and local communities. They should raise awareness and knowledge among their members and constituencies on integrated water management.

- Professional and scientific organisations, with their extensive knowledge and experience, should contribute increasingly to manage water. They should widen their professional scope and engage with more inter-disciplinary and cross-sectoral approaches.

26. The Private Sector

- Private companies, ranging from international enterprises to small local service providers and including financial institutions, should contribute more actively to sustainable governance, financing, service provision and capacity building in water.

- Becoming a partner in water services requires recognition of co-responsibility for the common good. Management or ownership of assets carries the obligation to conduct business in a socially, environmentally and ethically acceptable manner.

27. The International Community

- The United Nations and the international community should strengthen their commitment and their efforts to enable developing countries to manage water sustainably.

- Strong partnerships in the international community can be a catalyst for reform and capacity development. In particular, they can help mobilise knowledge and financial and other resources to reduce poverty and create more sustainable forms of water resources management.

- The United Nations should strengthen the coordination and coherence of its activities on water issues in an inclusive manner.

Annex III to the letter dated 7 January 2002 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

International Conference on Freshwater: Bonn 3 – 7 December, 2001

Water – Key to Sustainable Development

The Bonn Keys

(A synopsis document from the Facilitator)

We are convinced that we can manage water better, and that this will be a major step toward achieving sustainable development.

1. **The first key is to meet the water security needs of the poor** – for livelihoods, health and welfare, production and food security and reducing vulnerability to disasters. Pro poor water policies focus on listening to the poor about their priority water security needs. It is time now to build on the national and international commitment on drinking water with the determination also to halve the number of those who do not have access to sanitation.

2. **Decentralization is key. The local level is where national policy meets community needs.** Local authorities – if delegated the power and the means, and if supported to build their capacities - can provide for increased responsiveness and transparency in water management, and increase the participation of women and men, farmer and fisher, young and old, town and country dweller.

3. **The key to better water outreach is new partnerships.** From creating water wisdom, to cleaning up our watersheds, to reaching into communities – we need new coalitions. Energized, organized communities will find innovative solutions. An informed citizenry is the frontline against corruption. New technologies can help; so can traditional techniques and indigenous knowledge. This Bonn stakeholder dialogue is part of the process.

4. **The key to long-term harmony with nature and neighbour is cooperative arrangements at the water basin level, including across waters that touch many shores.** We need integrated water resource management to bring all water users to the information sharing and decision making tables. Although we have great difficulty with the legal framework and the form agreements might take, there is substantial accord that we must increase cooperation within river basins, and make existing agreements more vital and valid.

5. **The essential key is stronger, better performing governance arrangements.** National water management strategies are needed now to address the fundamental responsibilities of Governments: laws, rules and standard setting; the movement from service delivery to the creator and manager of an effective legal and regulatory framework. Effective regulatory arrangements that are transparent and can be monitored are the way to effective, responsive, financially sustainable services. Within these we will welcome both improved public sector and private sector delivery arrangements.

Water is essential to our health, our spiritual needs, our comfort, our livelihoods, and our ecosystems. Yet everywhere water quality is declining, and the water stress on humanity and our ecosystems increases. More and more people live in very fragile environments. The reality of floods and droughts touches increasing numbers and many live with scarcity. We are convinced that we can act, and we must. We have the keys.

United Nations E/CN.17/2002/PC.2/11

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
14 January 2002

Original: English

Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development
Second preparatory session
28 January-8 February 2002

Contributions to the Summit from the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification at its fifth session

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development the contributions to the Summit from the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification at its fifth session, which were submitted by the Executive Secretary of the Convention pursuant to General Assembly resolution 55/199.

02-21791 (E) 230102

Decision 3/COP.5*
Report of the Ad Hoc Working Group for the in-depth review and analysis of reports submitted at the third and fourth sessions of the Conference of the Parties

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 22, paragraph 2(a) of the Convention,

Recalling also its decision 6/COP.3 which, *inter alia*, established an Ad Hoc Working Group (AHWG) to review and analyse in depth the reports submitted at its third and fourth sessions, in order to draw conclusions and propose concrete recommendations on further steps in the implementation of the Convention,

Further recalling its decision 1/COP.4 on procedures to review reports submitted at the third and fourth sessions of the Conference of the Parties, and decision 3/COP.4 on procedures for the review of the implementation of the Convention,

Recalling furthermore decision 2/COP.4 on the interim report of the Ad Hoc Working Group for the in-depth review and analysis of reports submitted at the third and fourth sessions of the Conference of the Parties,

Recognizing the necessity to foster partnership building for the implementation of action programmes within affected countries,

1. *Takes note* with appreciation of the comprehensive report of the AHWG as contained in document ICCD/COP(4)/AHWG/6;

2. *Also takes note* of the conclusions and recommendations of the Ad Hoc Working Group annexed to this decision;

3. *Invites* Parties to accelerate, and interested international and non-governmental organizations to take the necessary steps, in the light of the conclusions and recommendations of the AHWG, to facilitate the completion of national action programmes and the implementation of such programmes, in particular at the local level;

4. *Urges* all Parties to negotiate and conclude partnership agreements based on national, subregional and regional action programmes, as appropriate.

11th plenary meeting
12 October 2001

* Extract from document ICCD/COP(5)/11/Add.1.

Annex

CONCLUSIONS AND CONCRETE RECOMMENDATIONS ON FURTHER STEPS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

A. Strategies and policy frameworks

1. Parties welcomed the holding of the forthcoming World Summit on Sustainable Development (Rio+10) and considered it an excellent opportunity to mobilize more political will and financial resources to promote UNCCD.

2. Parties recognize that the challenge of mainstreaming or integrating the NAP into broader strategic frameworks or consultative processes for sustainable development is a complex matter that should be dealt with through an appropriate consultation mechanism at country level.

3. Country Parties, sitting as members of the governing boards of multilateral organizations, technical agencies and development banks, should facilitate the coherence of these respective policy and strategy frameworks with the discharging of their obligations under UNCCD. The forthcoming COP may wish to invite such Parties to encourage a more direct response on the part of these organizations to the needs of the people in the drylands through the UNCCD implementation process. In this respect the emerging cooperation between the European Community and the affected Asian, Caribbean and Pacific countries is encouraged.

4. A global assessment and regular update of the status of desertification worldwide remains a necessity. Recent relevant multilateral initiatives must be more closely related to UNCCD. For instance, managers of the MEA, the Dry Lands Degradation Assessment (LADA) and of the Integrated Land and Water Management Initiative for Africa should more actively seek cooperation with and involvement of the UNCCD national focal points in relevant countries. Likewise, managers of the Capacity Development Initiative should be invited to consider including support to the UNCCD regional thematic networks in their programme.

5. Ongoing economic policy debates in multilateral forums such as the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) must better take into account the implications of trade, pricing and subsidies for the sustainable use of natural resources in the drylands. The COP may wish to invite the Committee on Trade and Environment of the WTO to include UNCCD-related matters in its deliberations from the point of view of a more open access of drylands products to international markets.

6. The potential for private sector investment in the drylands is recognized in such sectors as the mining and extraction industry, ecotourism and the production of medicinal plants and genetic material for the pharmaceutical industry or hydroponic agricultural production. Nevertheless incentives must be provided to encourage a sustainable use of land resources by corporate interests. The promulgation of environment-friendly guidelines for the relevant sectors of the economy in the drylands should be encouraged so as to ensure benefits at the local level. In this respect, the UNCCD secretariat is invited to pursue its cooperation with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN).

7. To promote the policy coherence needed within the United Nations system, the COP should invite the Secretary-General to recommend to the heads of the relevant agencies a decisive effort, so as better to orient the interventions of their respective organizations towards support of the Convention for the ultimate benefit of lower-income groups in the drylands.

B. Institutional aspects including the implementation review process

8. Coordination at country level is seen as of utmost priority. Affected country Parties are urged to facilitate a closer coordination between the UNCCD NFPs and relevant government bodies involved in the allocation of development aid, such as ministries of finance, planning commissions or departments of foreign affairs in charge of the coordination of aid. NFPs are invited to raise the priority of combating desertification in multilateral and bilateral negotiations.

9. Developed country Parties and the European Community are expected more explicitly to mobilize the local representatives of their aid agency or embassy to liaise more directly with the NFP in order to support the NAP formulation, to mainstream the environmental dimension of UNCCD in their development programmes and to incorporate drylands environmental and social cost analysis in the identification and planning of their projects.

10. Developed country Parties are invited to use the review process to strengthen further the coherence of their ongoing bilateral and multilateral aid efforts with those of the developing country Parties implementing the Convention. Developed country Parties are encouraged actively to incorporate the findings of the process into their programming of future assistance measures.

11. Relevant international organizations are requested to contribute more actively to the forthcoming review process through a presentation of measures they are taking in support of the launching of the operational phase of the implementation process.

12. Parties recognize the need to adjust their national reporting to the evolving needs of the implementation process, notably with respect to the activities related to the CST and the involvement of civil society, and therefore request the secretariat to modify the Help Guide accordingly in order to assist in the preparation of the second generation of national reports.

13. All Parties agree on the necessity for a continued exchange of information and for an analytical assessment in order to monitor the implementation of the Convention and to enable the COP to take appropriate measures in the evolving context of its constraints and progress. Affected developing countries call for the establishment of a standing subsidiary body of the COP to review implementation as a decisive step towards adequately discharging this critical task.

C. Participatory process and outreach at the local level

14. The Convention was found to be largely successful in raising awareness of the need for sustainable management of natural resources at grassroots level, but the interest raised must be sustained by appropriate action. Provisions for support must be earmarked within the UNCCD NAP for further awareness-raising activities and to sustain the participatory implementation of the Convention. More specifically, it is recommended that local area programmes be developed, identifying opportunities

for synergistic initiatives to be taken on a territorial basis, at the grassroots level.

15. It was also deemed necessary to inform public opinion in developed country Parties on the relevance of the Convention, notably in the context of broad concerns such as reducing rural poverty or forced emigration from the drylands.

16. Added resources deriving from climate adaptation funding sources should thus permit such programmes under the UNCCD NAPs by initiating capacity-building measures, in order to equip local communities to deliver obligations under UNCCD, CBD and UNFCCC. Such training would include guidelines on planning an integrated set of measures that restore degraded environments, protect the biodiversity and maintain carbon sinks while responding to the socio-economic needs of the local population. Lessons learned during the UNCCD process must be made available at local level.

D. Consultative mechanism for partnership arrangements

17. Parties that have completed their NAPs now face the immediate need to establish a predictable consultative mechanism for the conclusion of partnership arrangements. The COP may consider how the respective NFPs can receive the earliest support in this respect.

18. The positive role of the resident coordinators of the United Nations system in support of the NAP process was commended, and the field offices of UNDP should facilitate more systematically the convening of UNCCD-related consultative meetings.

19. Similarly, the NFP in all regions and bilateral donors might wish to identify bilateral *chefs de file* in their respective countries to join in the common launching of this necessary consultative process. Developed country Parties are invited to consult among themselves under an appropriate Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) framework in order to agree on a common policy with respect to country-driven consultative mechanisms for partnership arrangements under UNCCD and to report to the forthcoming COP on progress made on this matter.

20. It is recommended that COP 5 agree on a proposal for a schedule of consultative meetings for countries that have adopted their NAPs, in conformity with the pertinent provisions of the regional implementation annexes of the Convention.

E. Measures taken within the NAP framework

21. Lack of funding was quoted as the most common reason given for delays in preparing the NAPs to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought. The co-Chairmen can only reiterate in this respect the appeal they made in their interim report on the first session of the AHWG. In the context of the Declaration on Commitment adopted at COP 4 it is indeed appropriate for bilateral and multilateral donors to provide catalytic funds to enable the completion of the NAPs. They are invited to review ways and means of doing so before COP 5.

22. Improved national coordination requires, to start with, enhancing the information exchange between ministries and relevant organizations and/or agencies. The scientific and research communities must also be included. It is important

further to improve information exchange at the national level, particularly taking into consideration the fact that bilateral assistance negotiators should be associated at an early stage with the NAP process, as well as ministries of planning and finance. A greater coherence of information flows at national level will enhance the likelihood of receiving financial assistance for desertification projects. Various sources of assistance, including private sector funding, should be sought to equip national focal points and key stakeholders with the appropriate information technology.

23. Centralizing the NAP with a multitude of other instruments addressing problems associated with desertification and drought is a considerable challenge that the NFP must confront with adequate support from multilateral and bilateral partners in terms of coordination, exchange of timely information and, as appropriate, technical assistance. To ensure effective monitoring of UNCCD, links with relevant instruments must be created while preserving the integrity of the NAP formulation and adoption process.

F. Subregional and regional cooperation

24. The problems created by human factors and the interactions between ecosystems often call for common solutions in countries sharing the same ecosystems. It also calls for the effective communication and exploitation of best practices and of lessons learned, particularly with respect to GIS systems, meteorology or knowledge-based agro-ecology. In this respect the role of subregional and regional organizations was commended, and the call for strengthening their capacities to back up NAP development in member countries was reiterated.

25. Regional thematic networks need to be further strengthened. They play a cost-effective role in support of CST-driven initiatives such as those on benchmarks and indicators, the promotion and protection of traditional knowledge and building on best practices. Initiatives need to focus on success stories already available. Replication of best practices could serve as a useful tool for passing on existing knowledge.

26. In the light of the above, the need for partnership agreements at subregional and regional level was emphasized by many Parties, notably in the light of the fact that specialized subregional and regional institutions are in a position to bring a welcome substantive contribution to the review of the implementation process.

27. It is recommended that further exchanges of information, advisory services and experience between the regional implementation annexes of the Convention be promoted, making full use of existing subregional and regional institutions for South-South cooperation.

G. Financing of the Convention

28. The Parties agreed that the allocation of provisions to agriculture, rural development and/or the combat against desertification within the national budget of an affected country Party is an important indication of the political will of that country to discharge its obligations under UNCCD. Consistent with the Declaration on the Commitments to Enhance the Implementation of the Convention adopted at COP 4, they reiterated the necessity for provision of substantial financial assistance to developing countries.

29. The Parties expressed appreciation for the efforts of the Global Mechanism in discharging its mandate and the positive role it plays in further mobilizing donors. Nevertheless, the Parties acknowledged that, five years after the entry into force of the Convention, the Convention could not avail itself of a predictable mechanism for financing, in a timely and adequate manner, the Convention's enabling activities such as the preparation of national reports or the preparation and adoption of programming instruments at national, subregional or regional levels, let alone finance for operational activities under the NAPs.

30. In this context, on the supply side of the provision of required finance, a significant number of Parties recommend the Council of the GEF to include, during the forthcoming replenishment exercise, a financing window for combating desertification to access GEF resources in order to secure and facilitate the Convention's implementation including enabling activities.

31. In the meantime, on the demand side of the provision of required finance, the UNDP field offices in affected countries should be provided with the necessary additional resources to facilitate, together with a bilateral *chef de file*, the convening of the consultative meetings to bring about the partnership arrangements necessary to finance the proposed operations under the NAPs, in cooperation with the Global Mechanism and the secretariat.

32. The Global Mechanism, in cooperation with the members of its Facilitation Committee, should target an early matching of demand and supply through the facilitation of funding for the NAP's operations, and should be entrusted with monitoring the follow-up activities of this consultative process in order to facilitate the timely disbursement of pledged assistance. Its role should also be strengthened in support of the subregional and regional action programmes.

H. Issues related to the Committee on Science and Technology, including benchmarks and indicators

33. Environment management initiatives must be reinforced through added capacity-building measures, notably at the local level. More specifically, capacity training for focal points is needed for a systematic training in the development and application of indicators related to desertification, as well as in the use of Geographical Information System and Environmental Information System.

34. Information and awareness raising should also reach the academic and scientific community, and should cover, as part of a national monitoring system specific to desertification, those issues related to the development and application of benchmarks and indicators, so that representatives from the National Coordinating Body (NCB) can start utilizing and testing the implementation indicators elaborated by the CST with the necessary institutional backing of the scientific communities in their own countries. Impact indicators have not yet been agreed upon by the CST.

35. Financial assistance is needed so as to ensure that pilot activity areas can be established in which to test the indicators as part of a monitoring and assessment process, in accordance with CST recommendations.

36. Financial assistance is also required for conducting national inventories of traditional knowledge and practices used to combat desertification. The UNCCD regional thematic networks represent a decentralized capacity for expanding the coverage of these activities and should be enabled to do so.

37. Finally it was recommended that in reviewing the Help Guide for the preparation of NAPs as stipulated in decision 10/COP.4, the secretariat should reflect the needs of affected developed country Parties. The secretariat should also include the following guidelines that reflect the concerns, activities and recommendations of the CST, and which should be used, as appropriate, by Parties:

- the development and utilization of benchmarks and indicators that go beyond the physical and biological indicators so as to touch on institutional, including legislative as well as socio-economic, issues such as qualitative and quantitative evaluation of civil society participation;

- the utilization of, or need for, early warning systems tools for the management of drought;

- the presentation of key ongoing and/or planned activities, projects and programmes that either tackle the root causes or correct the visible effects of desertification in order to draw lessons learned and share scientific and technical approaches utilized;

- the illustration of South-South and North-South collaborative efforts that highlight the benefits of the exchange and transfer of information, technologies and technical know-how;

- the presentation of strategies and approaches used to collect, share and communicate information for the purposes of advocacy and sensitization, as well as the utilization and improvement of traditional knowledge for combating desertification;

- the presentation of ongoing and/or planned synergistic or collaborative approaches and activities with other Multilateral Environmental Agreements, particularly the CBD and the UNFCCC.

Decision 8/COP.5*
World Summit on Sustainable Development

The Conference of the Parties,

Convinced that the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) should be an excellent opportunity to mobilize more political will and resources to promote the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD),

Deeply concerned that, despite many successful and continuing efforts of the international community since the entry into force of the Convention and the fact that some progress has been made, desertification worldwide is worsening,

Recalling General Assembly Resolution 55/199 on the ten-year review of progress achieved in the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development which invited, *inter alia*, conventions related to the conference to participate fully in the ten-year review of progress achieved in the implementation of Agenda 21,

Recalling also that Chapter 12 of Agenda 21 identified combating desertification as one of the strategic tasks in the field of environment and sustainable development,

1. *Decides* to submit to the World Summit on Sustainable Development through the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee, for consideration, the Chairman's summary of the Ministerial and High-Level Interactive Dialogue sessions of the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNCCD on "Addressing the poverty-environment nexus through timely and effective implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification" which is annexed to the report of the Conference of the Parties and reproduced below;

2. *Invites* the Executive Secretary to submit to the WSSD through the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee, for consideration, decision 3/COP.5 on the Report of the Ad Hoc Working Group for the in-depth review and analysis of reports submitted at the third and fourth sessions of the Conference of the Parties, and in particular the conclusions and recommendations of the Ad Hoc Working Group annexed thereto;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to continue to participate actively in the preparatory process for the WSSD, and in the Summit itself, with a view to ensuring that the UNCCD goals and objectives, particularly those relating to poverty eradication and sustainable development, are duly reflected in its outcome, and to report to the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties accordingly;

4. *Invites* the WSSD to take into account in the course of its deliberations the challenges of and opportunities in combating desertification, controlling land degradation and mitigating the effects of drought in affected countries, including those relating to financial resources, with a view to renewing political commitments and achieving sustainable development, taking into consideration the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities;

5. *Encourages* Governments to involve UNCCD national focal points in the WSSD process, and non-governmental organizations to participate in that process, and invites developed countries to provide support to that end through appropriate channels.

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* Extract from document ICCD/COP(5)/11/Add.1.

11th plenary meeting
12 October 2001

Annex

PRESIDENT'S SUMMARY

MINISTERIAL AND HIGH-LEVEL INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE SESSIONS
Monday and Tuesday, 8-9 October 2001

Introduction

Two High-Level Open Dialogue sessions were held during the fifth Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). One was an informal meeting at Ministerial level, the other, an open dialogue for all high-level representatives within the formal sessions of the Conference's special segment. The intention of these meetings was to encourage the involvement of high-level participants in order to elicit critical ideas and active dialogue, and to ensure that these high-level representatives had an opportunity to voice their concerns about the drylands at this last meeting of the COP prior to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg in September 2002.

As an innovative experiment, these meetings were a success and many Parties have since expressed their satisfaction with the process; the Open Dialogue sessions of the special segment saw active engagement by some 40-50 speakers in frank discussion about critical issues facing the drylands. Parties may therefore wish to explore with the secretariat options for future sessions of this nature, perhaps even further refining and targeting the discussions in order to explore and advance specific agreed issues.

Participants are thanked for their contributions to this exchange; it is hoped that the following synthesis of the debate captures the key issues and themes which arose, and challenges all to continue this discussion in the various forums in which they will engage in the processes leading up to Johannesburg.

Context

Participants were challenged to identify what they believe to be the key issues in addressing the relationship between desertification, or land degradation, and poverty. They were asked to share their experiences on best practice - what works and what does not, to highlight the major impediments to progress, to indicate what they consider to be the priority actions that could be taken by affected country governments, donor organizations and countries, and affected populations, and to explore the potential contribution that can be made by the UNCCD as an instrument for poverty reduction, especially by capitalizing on the synergism amongst the multilateral environmental agreements.

Discussion: Overarching Challenges that emerged

It was confirmed by all that desertification is linked to poverty. Our understanding of desertification has evolved from a focus on the bio-physical aspects that lead to land degradation to a more comprehensive perspective which sees desertification to be clearly a developmental as well as an environmental issue. In identifying concrete actions for addressing desertification, participants in the discussion emphasized the need for actors to take into account the underlying socio-economic causes and constraints that create the conditions of poverty.

It was argued that desertification is both a primary cause and a consequence in the environment/poverty nexus. Losses of soils and water resources push marginal populations into a vicious spiral of increasing demands on scarcer natural resources; efforts to combat desertification should be targeted at breaking this cycle. They must be inter-organizational and multi-sectoral; building UNCCD objectives into poverty-reduction strategies would help in this regard. And finally, actions must achieve economies of scale and must provide return on investment.

Partnership is of key importance, between donors and developing countries, amongst donors, and with groups in civil society.

It was noted that at the national level the kind of cooperative, multi-sectoral approach which is required in order to address the desertification/poverty nexus with real results is at present a real challenge to the capacities of national governments. One idea which was debated was the possible need to strengthen the advocacy role and political profile of Ministries of the Environment within Parties' respective governments. It was also argued, on the other hand, that the problem was not so much a question of Ministerial weight, but rather one of constraints in the overall machinery of development. For example, the management and articulation of *planning* instruments for development, as negotiated by donor countries in partnership with recipient governments, tend to concentrate too much on the social sectors. The focus is poverty reduction, while relevant related issues such as the environment, which also require attention, are sometimes ignored. There is clearly a role for both donors and affected developing countries in seeking ways to raise the importance of the environment on the development agenda.

The generation of income was also seen as of prime importance in addressing the poverty-desertification-poverty cycle. It was argued that the promotion of alternative livelihoods could deliver results under the twin objectives of reducing poverty and combating desertification. In the context of rural agricultural economies, agricultural production and livelihood are closely entwined, and this relates to problems of food security, markets, agricultural trade and the overall macro-economic policy context. For example, policy decisions to centralize land holdings and invest in monoculture for export crops can result in increased land degradation, unstable pricing and declining livelihoods. Related environmental concerns, including chemical residue from inappropriate pesticide and fertilizer use only serve to exacerbate the problem.

Even when sustainable investments in agricultural production can be undertaken, they are unlikely to be successful if the basic infrastructure and enabling environment are not in place. Participants mentioned a variety of constraints including low market competitiveness, limited access to credit and investment and poor infrastructure, particularly roads to markets, access to water, or alternative energy supplies (to fuel wood). Provision of these are costly and long-term commitments.

In this regard, several participants raised the need for adequate financial assistance to be provided to affected developing countries to enable them to carry out the necessary work. Furthermore, support for capacity-building and the transfer of technology, both North-South and South-South, was a major requirement.

Another issue which featured prominently in many of the interventions during the special segment was the matter of land tenure and entitlement to productive resources. Many delegates shared their experience and knowledge of this subject. Suggestions were made ranging from advocating modern privatized land use systems through to the benefits of more traditional, community ownership practices. While no single system was identified as superior, it was clear from the discussion that this was a topic of great interest and one upon which the special segment was interested in engaging. The Convention may wish to explore this issue in greater detail.

While there was no consensus on this matter, it was clear that the topic of access and rights to land and secure livelihood is at the heart of the problem. Without the appropriate systems in place, affected people have no option but to migrate in times of distress and/or to resort to unsustainable agricultural practices. Unfortunately, as one participant noted, population movement to urban centres is not a solution and only serves to degrade peri-urban centres while contributing to urban poverty.

Population pressure in both the rural and urban contexts was an underlying issue which surfaced during the discussion. An interesting perspective was presented by one participant who noted that the real problem is not so much one of the numbers of people, but rather the nature of the impact they make. The concern therefore must be more on what these populations are doing, or not doing, vis-à-vis sustainable land use and management. Behaviour seems key.

In keeping with this conclusion, many participants indicated that solutions can be found only if we direct action to assisting the poor. However, these "pro-poor" solutions cannot be imposed. Nor is it a question of processes - consultation, participation, and so on - but rather one of empowerment. Giving affected people the means and autonomy to initiate, implement and take responsibility for their own processes of change; this is particularly true in the case of the most vulnerable groups of affected people. Further, the role of women was highlighted within the context of empowerment, and emphasized as a priority for attention, given the role that women play. Closely related to this call for empowerment are the notions of democratization and decentralization. Speakers identified trends which they were observing towards the increased participation of civil society, particularly non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community-based organizations (CBOs) and cooperatives, and the diffusion of decision-making and financial decision-making to affected local areas.

Also crucial to the discussion on behavioural change was the emphasis placed by various speakers on improving education and training. A broad spectrum of these kinds of needs was described, ranging from environmental education at primary school level, through capacity-building at the grassroots level, extension and vocational training in land and water use and enhanced scientific research capacity and application, to training for national decision-makers, training in economic valuation (in terms of economic assessment of desertification impacts), training of experts in dispute settlement, and even training for negotiators.

In terms of programme activity, it was observed that the very nature of interventions are changing as there is an increasing shift from a project to a programme means of delivery. Various contributors described their successful programmes, many of which featured ecosystem or watershed approaches (for example at the catchment level), transboundary actions, and so on. Others reflected on specific programme linkages which they have been trying to strengthen between desertification and climate change and/or biological diversity.

This notion of harmonization of multilateral environmental agreements and their effective inclusion into poverty reduction strategies was a recurrent theme during discussions. Unfortunately, many participants reflected that structuring of environmental issues through international conventions has led to the development of separate instruments, with distinct but parallel processes for engagement. Consequently, much work needs to be done to harness the synergies between the Conventions.

The need for policy coherence was also underlined. Again the nature of discussion during this special segment varied greatly. Some countries argued forcefully that what was needed was effective developing country leadership, while others pointed out that the donor community must recognize that their policy pressures and shorter-term planning cycles do not necessarily contribute to the longed-for integration. Rather there was recognition that donors must explore ways in which to engage in long-term partnership approaches, working with developing countries toward coordination and policy coherence.

And yet there is a danger, as another speaker noted, of overloading the policy agenda. The desire to be coherent and integrative may be immobilizing us completely. Perhaps the strongest message which was heard at the High-Level discussion was the need for action *now*.

Avenues towards further progress

The following are some key points from the discussion, which the COP may be interested in pursuing through further discussion:

- Poverty and desertification are inextricably linked.
- The reduction of poverty should be the overriding strategy that drives individual policy frameworks.
- UNCCD objectives should be built into poverty reduction strategies.
- The provision of adequate financing and support for technology transfer and capacity-building is essential.
- Simple, practical indicators, such as the amount of forest lost, land degraded or water available will help us to measure both our progress in the drylands and our overall success in addressing poverty.
- Policy coherence at all levels must be achieved on the basis of genuine partnership and consensus. Productive partnerships are the key to success.
- Priority must be given to triggering resource and income generation for local populations.
- Model or pilot projects could be used to illustrate lessons learnt and best practices for sustainable livelihood systems in the drylands.
- Effective use and deployment of existing resources implies bringing multilateral environment agreements into the mainstream of poverty reduction strategies.
- Donors should work with developing countries to support policy coherence with a view to assisting countries to incorporate the Convention into their strategic development frameworks.
- Work must be done to encourage the creation and/or strengthening of the necessary enabling environments (infrastructure, legal, institutional, etc.) which are preconditions to the effective implementation of this Convention.
- Environmental education is fundamental; this is in addition to broader needs relating to education, training, and capacity-building which require further support.
- Social and communal processes must be fostered through investments for equitable resource allocation, notably with regard to water.
- Local populations must be empowered to become capable of creating their own sustainable development.
- The role of civil society (NGOs, CBOs, cooperatives, etc.) as a key ally of government in the development process must be recognized and supported.

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28 January-8 February 2002

Statement by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination[1] to the Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit herewith the statement by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination to the Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

[1] Formerly the Administrative Committee on Coordination.

02-21537 (E) 210102

Introduction

1. The executive heads of the organizations of the United Nations system strongly welcome the World Summit on Sustainable Development and attach great importance to its successful outcome. They join together in the hope that world leaders gathering in Johannesburg, South Africa, in September 2002, will build on the political momentum of the Millennium Summit and inject a renewed focus on the global partnership that is indispensable to the advancement of sustainable development.

Towards sustainable development

2. In the past decade both donor and recipient countries have devoted vast amounts of resources to the task of sustaining development at all levels, notably under the unifying framework of Agenda 21. The executive heads especially acknowledge the positive impact of legislative and regulatory reforms by Governments of developed and developing countries that have led to stronger national policy frameworks for sustainable development, including innovative fiscal measures intended to change national production and consumption patterns.

3. Civil society and the corporate sector have also broadened and deepened their roles in the implementation of Agenda 21, with important initiatives and actions for sustainable development within their own spheres of economic, social and commercial activities.

4. Within the United Nations system, member organizations have launched diverse partnership initiatives with Member States aimed at strengthening the human, institutional, technical and productive capacities of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to pursue sustainable development consistent with their national frameworks.

5. At the same time, rapid developments in technology, communication and global trade have raised new issues that need to be addressed. The international community is thus called upon to evolve new and more dynamic strategies for sustaining global development and balancing modern economic growth, promoting social well-being and pursuing the prudent management of the environment in a more holistic and synergistic manner, especially considering certain unresolved environmental matters identified a decade ago. Although much has already been achieved, progress has notably fallen short in building sustainable societies through the effective integration of the social, economic and environmental pillars of sustainable development into modern day-to-day decision-making. This reinforces the urgent need for capacity-building in the areas of integrated analysis and decision-making.

Challenges

6. The executive heads underscore the reality that overcoming existing barriers to sustainable development is particularly difficult for developing countries, especially the least developed countries and small island developing States.

7. One of the main challenges is to ensure that globalization becomes a positive force for all the world's people. While it has often led to faster growth and higher living standards, its benefits are unevenly distributed both among and within countries. Efforts to promote global trade and financial liberalization have tended to overlook social and environmental objectives. For many societies, globalization has come to mean increased social, economic and ecological vulnerabilities. At the same time, trade distortions, particularly in the agricultural sector, continue to limit market access for exports from developing countries.

8. Protection of public health is another factor, particularly in reference to the HIV/AIDS pandemic. The HIV/AIDS problem has spread far and wide, constituting, along with other diseases such as malaria and tuberculosis, a serious impediment to economic and social progress. It threatens to undermine the entire development process in sub-Saharan Africa, while also affecting development prospects in other developing regions.

9. Hunger and poverty, especially in rural areas, have increased in intensity in many developing countries, signalling the weaknesses of national poverty programmes in the face of global development. In these countries, women and children suffer disproportionately.

10. The pressures of population growth and rapid urbanization and, in some cases, war and political conflict, continue to hamper the provision of adequate infrastructure and services in developing countries,

especially housing, health care, education, safe drinking water, sanitation, energy, waste management and transportation.

11. Environmental concerns constitute a large block of interrelated issues that pose real challenges to sustainable development, as a healthy environment is a prerequisite for economic growth and social equity. In this regard, the unabated emission of greenhouse gases, despite growing scientific evidence of its linkages to climate change, the upsurge in natural disasters involving not only natural forces but also inappropriate development choices and environmental degradation, deforestation, drought and desertification, degradation and loss of agricultural land, loss of biodiversity, threats to coral reefs and fish stocks, marine pollution and increasing scarcity of freshwater resources, are just a few of the many interrelated environmental issues that need urgent attention.

12. Not least among the emerging factors is the limited extent of technology transfer, including the introduction of energy-efficient and other environmentally sound technologies to developing countries. Progress in the use of new information technologies by developing countries in the emerging digital economy is still too slow.

13. The executive heads also call attention to an all-important factor that greatly diminishes the positive impact of sustainable development policies and practices — the unforgiving debt burden facing many developing countries. High interest payments, along with the continuing decline in official development assistance, have severely constrained the ability of most developing countries to provide basic services and invest in growth that could sustain development.

Summit of renewed action

14. The Summit meeting offers a timely opportunity to re-energize ongoing efforts within the framework of Agenda 21. It is hoped that world leaders will seize this unique opportunity to focus on specific initiatives that can synergistically and collectively address poverty eradication, social development, food security, sustained economic growth and the protection and conservation of natural resources and ecosystems. It is imperative that such initiatives enjoy the support of all concerned actors and stakeholders at both the national and international levels so as to ensure ownership and guarantee success.

15. The executive heads are committed, in close cooperation with the international community, to launching a new era of shared global responsibility for sustainable development consistent with their respective mandates.

16. The key Millennium Declaration goal of halving, by the year 2015, the proportion of the world's people living in poverty and the proportion of people suffering from hunger (see General Assembly resolution 55/2, sect. III), will require strongly focused and highly coordinated sustainable development strategies. Well-functioning partnership arrangements are thus necessary to ensure that timely and strategic action is taken by all concerned.

17. Broader support and sustained efforts to promote participatory and accountable governance, the empowerment of women and mobilization of substantial, new and additional financial resources for sustainable development, including through the timely implementation of the enhanced programme of debt relief for the heavily indebted poor countries and reinvigoration of the commitment to the 0.7 per cent official development assistance target, would go a long way towards furthering sustainable development.

18. The World Summit offers the political leaders of both developed and developing countries, as well as stakeholders in government, civil society, the corporate sector, labour unions and the United Nations system member organizations, an opportunity to join hands and:

(a) Promote greater mutual understanding that a transparent, non-discriminatory and rule-based multilateral trading system and greater access to global markets by developing countries, including duty- and quota-free access for exports from the least developed countries, are fully compatible with the objectives of sustainable development;

(b) Exert their best efforts to achieve a consensus for the early entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol, intensify at the same time efforts to implement recently adopted recommendations on energy for sustainable development, proactively pursue policies designed to strengthen national capacities in disaster prevention and response to major natural and human-caused environmental disasters and promote

stronger regional and multilateral cooperation agreements in this sphere;

(c) In the framework of increasing global competitiveness and productivity, call for practical commitments to intensify efforts to remove supply-side constraints and develop competitive productive capacities, promote the transfer of and access to protected technology by developing countries, fully exploit technology in the public domain and induce national institutions in developing countries to strengthen their own technological and scientific inventiveness;

(d) Integrate more effectively environmental, social, cultural and economic concerns in policy formulation and implementation through existing national coordination frameworks and mechanisms;

(e) Ensure more responsive policy formulation and greater policy coherence to support the planning and implementation of national programmes of action for sustainable development.

The executive heads also take this opportunity to renew their commitment to inter-agency cooperation at the policy, programme and field levels with a view to achieving a fully coordinated United Nations approach to sustainable development.

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Item 2 of the provisional agenda*
Comprehensive review and assessment of progress achieved in the implementation of Agenda 21 and the other outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, as well as of the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21

Letter dated 10 January 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Permit me to inform you about a workshop organized by the Central European Initiative (CEI) Working Group on Environment on the theme "Transport and energy: challenges and possible sustainable solutions in the CEI region", which was held in Vienna on 15 and 16 November 2001.

Please find enclosed a paper entitled "CEI-Recommendations 'Energy and Transport'", which is based on the results of the workshop (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the second session of the Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

(*Signed*) Gerhard **Pfanzelter**
Ambassador

* E/CN.17/2002/PC.2/1.

02-21657 (E) 210102

E/CN.17/2002/PC.2/13

Annex to the letter dated 10 January 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

CEI

CEI Workshop 'Energy and Transport–Challenges and Possible Sustainable Solutions in the CEI Region'
Vienna, Austria, 15/16 November 2001

CEI-Recommendations 'Energy and Transport'

Input Paper for the Tenth Meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD10) acting as Preparatory Committee for the WSSD (World Summit on Sustainable Development), September 2002 in Johannesburg

based on the results of the
Central European Initiative (CEI)[1] Working Group on Environment Workshop on
'Transport and Energy – Challenges and Possible Sustainable Solutions in the CEI-Region'
Vienna, Austria, 15/16 November 2001

INTRODUCTION

Energy and transport are indispensable ingredients for economic and social development. At the same time conventional forms of energy production, distribution and consumption as well as unsustainable transport and mobility patterns are linked to environmental degradation.

To meet the rising needs of a growing world population, global energy consumption and transport continue to increase substantially. By relying on the depletion of non-renewable resources, the industrialised countries have built their economies on an unsustainable basis. Moreover, wide disparities in the levels of energy consumption and transport patterns within and between countries do exist and are related to growing inequities in wealth and income between and within countries.

In order to minimise these negative impacts changes towards sustainable energy and transport policies, which take into account the economic, social and ecological aspects, have already been implemented. Nevertheless, enhanced efforts to reach the goal of sustainable development are indispensable. Furthermore, increased co-operation at the global, regional and national level as well as co-ordination among all actors in the fields of energy and transport is necessary.

As a contribution to the preparation for the WSSD the participants of the CEI Working Group Environment discussed these issues at a Workshop on 15 and 16 November 2001 in Vienna and adopted the following recommendations.

ENERGY

Background to the Recommendations on Energy

In past decades, the increase of global CO_2 emissions would have been about two times higher if the growth of the economies had not

[1] The CEI has the following 17 Member States: Albania, Austria, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy, Macedonia, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Ukraine, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

been associated with an important improvement in energy efficiency. Nevertheless, there is a pressing need to promote energy efficiency more actively, in view of the fact that this is often less expensive than establishing new supply capacities. In addition to a significant positive environmental impact, improved energy efficiency will lead to a more sustainable energy policy, improved competitiveness of the economies, enhanced security of supply and to many other benefits. Currently, energy efficiency has by far not reached its potential.

Renewable energy sources can sharply reduce local, regional and global environmental impacts as well as energy security risks, and can reduce costs for consumers. Renewable energy technologies, in particular, are often the lowest cost option for providing household- and village-scale power in rural areas.

Moreover, they can contribute to reducing dependency on energy imports and to creating jobs, predominantly in small and medium sized enterprises. Deployment of renewables can be key for regional sustainable development and income-generation. The modular character of most renewable technologies allows gradual implementation, which is easier to finance and allows a rapid scale-up where required.

Hydropower is a proven mature technology and has been competitive with other commercial energy sources for many years. The potential of small scale hydro power plants is still further to be utilised.

Biomass, which next to hydropower is the most frequently used renewable energy source, is currently predominantly utilised for domestic heating. However, it can also be used for heat- and power production, in the form of biogas and of liquid fuels.

Wind energy technology has matured within the past decade. Next to sea-shore and offshore sites, special inland sites are used for the installation of new wind turbines.

While the thermal applications of solar energy have been widely developed, the economic production of electricity from solar energy is still restricted to special sites and conditions.

Geothermal energy will remain restricted to geologically suitable sites. The use of heat pumps to upgrade low temperature heat is becoming more common.

CEI-Recommendations Energy

The CEI- Working Group on Environment and participants of the CEI workshop,

having regard to the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

taking into account Decision 9/1 on Energy for Sustainable Development taken at the Ninth Session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development;

recognising the Communication from the European Commission – Energy for the Future: Renewable Sources of Energy. White Paper for a Community Strategy and Action Plan. COM(97)599 final (27/11/1997);

recalling the report of the G8 Renewable Energy Task Force presented to the Genoa Summit in July 2001;

recommend to the Tenth Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD10) acting as Preparatory Committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) 2 – 11 September 2002 in Johannesburg and to the Summit itself to consider the following recommendations:

1. Priority should be given to a balanced policy mix aiming for environmentally and socially sustainable energy use. Environmental quality objectives and requirements, as well as targets and

principles (such as the "polluter-pays" principle and the precautionary principle) should be integrated in energy and energy related policies, taking into consideration economic, environmental and social concerns.

2. Environmental quality objectives and targets, strategies and implementation programmes for sustainable energy supply and use should be integrated into other policies and programmes.

3. All external costs of energy production and use, including costs for risk, land-use and environmental damage, should be internalised.

4. Assessment methods such as SEA (strategic environmental assessments) and EIA (environmental impact assessments) for energy projects should be applied.

5. Public awareness for the benefits of energy efficiency and renewable sources of energy should be raised, and education and training concerning environmentally sound energy systems should be introduced or enhanced, since sufficient information and motivation of all actors involved is a necessary prerequisite to promote the use of sustainable energy, and in particular to induce private investment.

6. Measures should be encouraged, to foster energy savings and to move towards more sustainable consumption patterns in everyday life.

7. Reform of energy markets can reduce costs of energy products and improve the competitiveness of the economy. However, this does not necessarily lead to lower costs for energy services. Additional policy measures should safeguard that such market reforms do promote energy efficiency and renewable sources of energy.

8. Legal barriers and environmentally counterproductive subsidies hindering the application of energy efficiency measures and renewable energy technologies should be phased out in order to make energy producing and consuming activities supportive of sustainable development.

9. The legal and financial framework should be shaped to encourage private investment in the field of energy efficiency and in technologies utilising renewable sources of energy. The security and stability of these framework conditions should be guaranteed.

10. Adequate tariffs for feeding electricity into the grid have been the most successful measures for the promotion of combined heat and power and electricity produced out of renewable sources of energy. Therefore, adequate tariffs and fair conditions for access to the grid should be guaranteed.

11. Markets at national level, which bear the greatest potential for cost effective use of renewables, reflecting their social and environmental benefits, should be identified.

12. To promote energy from agricultural sources such as biomass, a long term and reliable supply regime is required which provides a sufficient temporal perspective to allow investments.

13. Special attention should be paid to environmentally sustainable energy supply and use in particularly sensitive areas, including areas subject to high environmental pressure.

14. Technological know-how for sustainable energy systems as well as environmental standards and tools for the assessment of environmental and socio-economic impacts of energy systems should be shared within the CEI-region and beyond.

15. NGOs can play a catalytic role to raise awareness and influence policy changes towards sustainable energy. Therefore they should be supported in their work to foster partnerships on sustainable energy use.

16. When introducing energy plans at the national, regional or local level, all stakeholders concerned should be involved and have appropriate access to information already in the planning stage. These energy plans should be subject to a public hearing at a time where significant alternative approaches can still be discussed.

17. Energy efficiency and renewable sources of energy will play a key role in combating climate change and meeting the targets of the Kyoto Protocol. To develop the flexible mechanisms of the Kyoto Protocol and to allow the identification and implementation of projects for joint investments, the development of regimes, bilaterally and with the co-operation of involved parties, is recommended.

18. Strengthened co-operation is needed at all levels and between all actors. Governments and all other stakeholders should co-operate at the global and regional level to achieve a sustainable energy future.

19. Given its important role for sustainable development, energy should be one of the key topics at the WSSD. Given the lack of co-ordinating bodies active in the field of energy, the Summit should inter alia strive to define the institutional settings required to enhance co-ordination, in particular through innovative arrangements such as networks.

TRANSPORT

Background to the Recommendations on Transport

Trends of changing mobility patterns in passenger and freight transport threaten rather than correspond with the objectives of sustainable development. This applies to the CEI-Region as to other regions, where a tremendous increase in freight transport by road and rising car traffic has been recorded in the last decade while alternative modes experienced a substantial decrease.

Sustainable development in transport requires substantial reduction of the environmental, social and health impacts and risks of transport. Priority should be set on a balanced policy mix of infrastructural, technological, organisational and behavioural measures, all aiming for sustainable transport and the integration of environmental quality objectives, targets and key principles in transport policy.

CEI-RECOMMENDATIONS Transport

The CEI-Working Group on Environment, its Subgroup on Environment and Transport and the participants of the CEI-Workshop,

desiring to support the development of a sustainable transport system especially in the CEI-Region;

having regard to the CEI Ministerial Declaration Towards Sustainable Transport in the CEI-Countries;

having regard to the 1997 UN-ECE Vienna Declaration on Transport and Environment and its Programme of Joint Action;

having further regard to the WHO Charter on Transport, Environment and Health London, 16 June 1999;

highlighting the OECD EST (Environmentally Sustainable Transport) Guidelines endorsed by the OECD Environment Ministers in May 2001 and the substantial input by the joint OECD/UNEP project on EST for the CEI-Region;

having regard to the recommendations of the 1999

OECD/ECMT Warsaw Conference on Strategic Environmental Assessment for Transport;

taking into account the CSD Decision9/2 on Transport;

recalling the Recommendations of the FIST Workshop (Financing Sustainable Transport Infrastructure and Technology focusing on Central and Eastern European Countries and New Independent States), Vienna 25/26 January 2001

recalling the Helsinki Declaration of the 1997 Pan-European Transport Conference;

regarding The Transport Infrastructure Needs Assessment (TINA) process, designated to initiate the development of a multi-modal transport network within the territory of some of the CEI-Countries;

recognising that transport systems and their wide-ranging implications for the long-term sustainability need the consideration of economic, financial and land-use policies and co-ordinated action.

recommend to Tenth Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD10) acting as Preparatory Committee for the WSSD (World Summit on Sustainable Development) 2-11 September 2002 in Johannesburg the to consider the following recommendations.

1. *Environmentally Sustainable Transport Objectives and Strategies in the CEI-Region - EST goes EAST*

All three pillars of sustainable development -economic development, social development and environmental protection- are of equal importance. The OECD methodology for Environmentally Sustainable Transport (EST) takes these principles to heart. Various activities, in particular the ongoing collaboration between the OECD and UNEP (EST goes EAST), extended the EST methodology to Central, Eastern and South Eastern European Countries. Alternative development paths which lead to transport that is more environmentally sustainable have been prioritised, examined, developed and implemented through this work.

In the light of sharing experiences the following findings and recommendations could also be used for other countries and regions.

1.1 Environmental requirements should be made an integral part of all activities in the transport sector and related sectors, in particular for infrastructure investment. This means taking into account environment quality objectives, targets and key principles (such as the "polluter-pays" principle) on equal level as economic and social concern in transport and transport related policies.

1.2 Health and environmental quality objectives based on health and environmental criteria, standards, and sustainability requirements should be defined. Quantified, sector-specific targets, derived from the environmental and health quality objectives, target dates and benchmarks should be set.

1.3 Strategies and implementation programmes for sustainable transport should be developed in order to minimise negative environmental and health impacts of transport.

1.4 Environmentally sound, energy saving and safe transport modes - in particular rail, inland navigation and coastal short sea shipping, public transport, cycling and walking - should be promoted with a focus on intermodality and the preservation of the high modal split between them in the CEI-Region.

1.5 Internalisation of all external costs of transport should be realised, especially costs of traffic accidents, environmental damage and health hazards.

1.6 Assessment methods such as SEA (strategic environmental assessments) and EIA (environmental impact assessments) for transport projects should be applied.

1.7 Public awareness should be raised and education for environmentally sound traffic should be introduced or enhanced. The stakeholders concerned should be involved and have appropriate access to information when planning developments in the transport sector. Provisions for monitoring and public reporting should be set.

1.8 Spatial and land use planning should avoid urban sprawl and be oriented on environmental requirements and co-ordinated with infrastructural transport planning.

1.9 Designing sustainable transport policy should take into account the social and economic implications. Affordability of sustainable transport modes as well as accessibility to people, goods and services are essential elements of sustainable transport.

1.10 The implementation of environmentally sustainable transport needs a co-operative process, on international and national levels. Therefore broad support and co-operation for implementing EST should be built; concerned parties should be involved, their active support and commitment ensured. All actions, such as pilot projects, sharing best practice experience as well as setting up public-private-partnerships, should be consistent with global responsibility for sustainable development.

1.11 To a greater extent adequate measures on environmentally sustainable transport development are necessary and should be enabled particularly in ecologically and culturally sensitive areas, urban agglomerations, corridors with high existing or future impact of transport and post-war areas.

1.12 Given their vital importance for sustainable land use and consumption patterns, adequate and sustained funding for public transport, for rail, and for the maintenance and rehabilitation of existing roads and rail systems not part of international priority corridors as well as walking and cycling infrastructure and traffic abatement zones in urban areas should be ensured.

1.13 Demand management should become a legitimate policy process in itself. This includes action and measures at all levels, including infrastructural shifts, fiscal measures, legislative measures, and social policy methods to give incentives to minimise travel, and penalise excessive travel. Promoting the 'no-travel' option (other than foot or bicycle) should be taken seriously, particularly where land-use changes can make this realistic.

2. Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) – an Important Tool for Environmentally Sustainable Transport

The Transport Infrastructure Needs Assessment (TINA) process was designated to initiate the development of a multi-modal transport network within the territory of several CEI-Countries.[2] It mainly concerns the identification of transport investment measures by which the identified transport network would be brought up to a desired quality level.

2.1 In the light of environmentally sustainable transport the transport network defined by the TINA process is

[2] Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, (EU-accession countries)

urged to undergo strategic environmental assessments. Governments and the EC should facilitate that process.

2.2 CEI-Countries should formulate transportation infrastructure development plans and programs which are formally adopted by governments and subjected to public review. They should integrate transport, environmental and health goals and objectives equally at all levels.

2.3 Major transportation plans, infrastructure measures and programs at all levels should be subjected to a SEA.

2.4 All countries should develop the capacity to perform high quality, state-of-the-art SEAs.

2.5 Only transport projects which are included in plans and programs which have been subjected to a SEA should be financed.

2.6 In order to effectively account for short, medium and long-term impacts on the transport system, the indicators and objectives of the SEAs should include all relevant international conventions and agreements and national targets.

3. *Innovation Partnerships in Transport-Technological, organisational and communicational improvements*

Information exchange and transfer of know-how on technological, organisational and communicational measures in transport, adapted to the local requirements, might be a helpful means to pave the way for environmentally sustainable transport in the CEI-Countries.

Close co-operation in form of joint activities, common programs and projects, public private partnerships and information exchange should ensure a comprehensive know-how transfer.

Organisational measures, technological solutions, environmental standards and assessment tools to evaluate environmental and socio-economic impacts of transport systems should be shared with CEI-Countries and economies in transition.

3.1 Supporting mobility management measures in rail, public transport and other environmentally sound modes should help to reduce the growth in sustainable motorised traffic.

3.2 Improvements of bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure and services are effective and cheap means to create positive health and environmental as well as safety effects. It helps to reduce the external costs of the whole transport system. Therefore it should be promoted as a priority in transport policy.

3.3 Information technology (IT) should be promoted and financially supported to optimise environmentally sustainable transport and logistics, to raise efficiency in using existing infrastructure and logistics and to minimise road transport.

3.4 Freight transport should be made more environmentally sound through improvements in logistics, intermodality, intermodal carriage facilities and technologies of rail, inland navigation and coastal shipping as well as combined transport.

3.5 Alternative motor fuels, in particular bio fuels, compressed natural gas (CNG) and liquefied petrol gas (LPG), alternative and zero emission vehicles, new materials and technologies (e.g. light weight or fuel cells) and incentives for their market penetration (deployment strategies) should be promoted.

3.6 The introduction of best available technology (BAT) to improve fuel quality (e.g. phasing out lead and using low sulphur fuels) and conventionally powered engines and vehicles in all transport modes should be accelerated including the enhancement of existing national inspection and maintenance programs with regard to emission reduction from in-use vehicles and engines.

3.7 Supporting and financing public transport guarantees greater availability and use of well-integrated public transport, displacing individual ownership and use of personal motorised vehicles.

3.8 The promotion and funding of pilot and demonstration projects in environmentally sustainable transport and public private partnerships in financing sustainable transport systems will help technological innovations to find their way into the market.

CONCLUSION

Energy and Transport – Challenges and Possible Sustainable Solutions in the CEI-Region' – Contribution of the CEI-Workshop to CSD10

There is a clear need to take action to move energy and transport developments in the CEI-Region and beyond in a more environmentally, economically and socially sustainable direction. Such action needs to be taken at all levels and by different players.

Sustainable energy and transport systems have to find a wide range of solutions, from infrastructure, supply, technologies and management to access to environmental information, public participation and accountability.

Member countries of the CEI have started to tackle these challenges through research, planning, policy development, pilot projects, infrastructure investments and education. To promote more rapid integration and sustainable development across the European region, European Countries, international financial and other relevant institutions should support these efforts and further prioritise these issues.

The CEI Working Group on Environment presents this paper as an expression of their willingness to take the above perceptions and interpretations into consideration for the formulation of energy- and transport strategies by all participating parties of the CSD10.

This paper was discussed and agreed upon at the meeting of the Central European Initiative (CEI) Working Group on Environment in Vienna.